Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-91-217 *8 November 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Members of Maghreb Union Meet EEC Counterparts *[MAP]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Sources Say U.S. Would Restore Ties With PLO *[Tel Aviv HADASHOT 7 Nov]* 1
DFLP Members Resign From Palestinian Delegation *[Tehran IRNA]* 1
Delgate Frayj Says Talks To Resume by End of Nov *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Hanan 'Ashrawi on List of Demands for Israel *[Cairo Radio]* 1
'Arafat, Syria's al-Asad Confer on Peace Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 1
PLO's 'Amr Stresses Arab Unity in Peace Efforts *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Nov]* 2
Delegation to Consult on Technical Committees *[Jerusalem TV]* 2
Tunis Conference Issues Call for Palestinians *[Tunis Radio]* 3
Commentary Hails Madrid Talks Delegates *[Algiers VOP]* 3
Israelis Urged To Abolish Restrictive Measures *[Algiers VOP]* 4

South Asian Regional Affairs

Outgoing SAARC Chief Discusses New Summit Date *[Dhaka Radio]* 4
Premadasa Blames India for Postponment *[Delhi Radio]* 4
Nawaz Sharif Disappointed at Postponement *[Islamabad Radio]* 4
New Date for SAARC Summit Discussed *[AFP]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Explosions Heard on Tunisian Border *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Assembly Speaker Discusses Domestic Issues *[Tehran ETTELA'AT 23 Oct]* 6
Prime Minister Denies Being Election Candidate *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Salvation Front To Participate in Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 7
FIS Rally Calls for Leaders' Release *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Mubarak: Madrid Conference 'Significant Step' *[MENA]* 7
Foreign Minister Musa Meets 'Arafat Adviser *[MENA]* 14
Holds Talks With Soviet Envoy *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Comments on Contacts Over Bilateral Talks *[MENA]* 15
Damascus Declaration Ministers To Meet in Cairo *[MENA]* 15

Mauritania

Malian Minister Requests Aid on Northern 'Crisis' *[Nouakchott Radio]* 15

Morocco

Minister Chairs Meeting on University Disturbances *[Rabat TV]* 15

Tunisia

President Speaks on Anniversary of Takeover *[Tunis Radio]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Security Accord With U.S.
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 5 Nov] 18
Israeli 'Tactics' in Madrid Analyzed *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 3 Nov]* 18

Saudi Arabia

Report on Fahd's Address to Kuwaiti Delegation *[SPA]* 19
King Fahd Congratulates Gorbachev *[SPA]* 20
Newspapers Continue Comment on Madrid *[SPA]* 21
World Unconvinced by Israel *['UKAZ 1 Nov]* 21
Additional Press Comment *[SPA]* 22

IRAQ

Islamic Opposition Leader Urges Army Coup *[AFP]* 23
Kurdish Delegation in Baghdad To Discuss Security *[INA]* 23
Kurds Reportedly Inflict Large Losses on Army *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 23
Siege Tightened in South *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 23
Seminar on Ba'th Party Statement Concludes *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Gulf Regimes Said 'Sabotaging' Arab Security *[INA]* 24
Repaired Oil Pumping Station Inaugurated *[INA]* 24
Minister: Currency in Circulation 'Fully Covered' *[INA]* 25

ISRAEL

Second 7 Nov Raid on 'Terrorist' Target Reported *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Shamir, Levi Meet Again on Netanyahu Assignment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Sharon Predicts Serious Pressure During Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Shamir Urged To Change Negotiating Style *[HA'ARETZ 7 Nov]* 26
Peres Dismisses Maxwell Involvement in Irangate *[Tel Aviv TV]* 27
'Secret' Likud Poll on Politicians' Popularity *[HA'IR 8 Nov]* 27
Islamic Jihad 'Terrorist' Details Mission *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Palestinians, Israeli Leftists Resume Cooperation *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Over 18 Percent of Children Under Poverty Line *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 6 Nov]* 28

JORDAN

King Husayn Receives Joint Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 29
'Arafat Explains Position to PNC Members *[AL-RA'Y 7 Nov]* 29
*King Husayn on Peace Process, Settlements *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 29 Oct]* 29

LEBANON

American University Explosion Kills One *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Car Bomb Reportedly Caused Blast *[VOM]* 35
Karami Denounces Bombing *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Israeli Helicopters Raid al-Rashidiyah *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Further on Raid *[RFL]* 35
Second Raid Performed *[RFL]* 35
Villages in South Come Under Artillery Fire *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Iranian Delegation Led by Khonsari Arrives *[VOL]* 36
Fatah Official on Palestinian Retaliation *[VOL]* 36
Buwayz Discusses Israeli Delegation Proposals *[VOL]* 36

'Sources' on Lebanon-Syria 4 Nov Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 6 Nov]* 37
Al-Murr: Ban on U.S. Spare Parts Lifted *[Beirut Radio]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Delegation Leaves for Moscow Peace Talks *[AFP]* 39
Rebels Reportedly Involved in Attack on Ex-King *[BAKHTAR]* 39
Pro-Saudi Rebels Capture Konarha From Rival Group *[AFP]* 40
President Najibollah Discusses Peace Process *[Paris LE FIGARO 4 Nov]* 40
Najibollah Sends Congratulatory Note to Gorbachev *[Kabul Radio]* 41
Kabul Function Marks National Day *[BAKHTAR]* 41
Khaleqyar Sends National Day Message *[BAKHTAR]* 42
Parliamentarians Send Congratulations *[BAKHTAR]* 42
Officials Say Moscow Tightening Purse Strings *[AFP]* 42

Bangladesh

Minister Says BCCI To Reopen in December *[AFP]* 43

India

Government Denies Blame for SAARC Summit Failure *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Congress-I Spokesman on SAARC Summit, Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Finance Minister on Economic Reforms, Growth Rate *[Delhi Radio]* 44
President Urges Weapons Development *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

Yazdi Gives Sermon on Madrid, Ship Seizure *[Tehran Radio]* 44
King Fahd Sends President Gift From Mecca *[AFP]* 45
Khamene'i Addresses Students, Teachers *[Tehran Radio]* 45
* Mehrpur on Supervising Upcoming Elections *[RESALAT 6 Oct]* 47

Nepal & Bhutan

King Cancels SAARC Trip Due to 'Subversion' *[AFP]* 51
Prime Minister Cancels Visit *[AFP]* 51

Pakistan

'Rumors' Predict Prime Minister's Ouster *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Prime Minister Addresses Nation on Accomplishments *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Prime Minister Departs for Colombo 7 Nov *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
NPP Criticizes Government, Alliance 'Cracks' *[Delhi Radio]* 56
U.S. Officials' Visits Reflect 'Close' Ties *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Government, Bangladesh Sign Economic Minutes *[Dhaka Radio]* 56
Iranian Envoy Meets President, Delivers Message *[Islamabad]* 56

Sri Lanka

Opposition Blames Premadasa for SAARC 'Debacle' *[AFP]* 56
Dissidents Accuse Government of Framing Charges *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Members of Maghreb Union Meet EEC Counterparts

LD0811070491 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Brussels, Nov. 6—(TAP/POOL/UMA)—For the second time since the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) the five foreign ministers of Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania meet their twelve EEC peers.

The meeting was an opportunity to exchange viewpoints on the first results of the Madrid Mid-East Peace Conference and the European and Maghreban contribution in this respect.

Economic, political and social relations, especially Maghreban immigration to Europe, were at the center of these talks.

It was decided to assign the European commission to make concrete proposals on cooperation actions to be implemented by the two groupings, probably by the beginning of 1992.

The respective acting presidents of the two groupings, Abdellatif Filali (Morocco for UMA) and Hans van den Broek (Holland for EEC) announced such ministerial meetings will be held twice a year.

At a joint news conference, the two officials underlined "the two countries' readiness to carry on economic, political and social dialogue."

At the end of the meeting, Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdellatif Filali said the results reached were positive and vital for both the EEC and the UMA, in that any problem that affects one of the two communities will necessarily have repercussions on the other.

Palestinian Affairs

Sources Say U.S. Would Restore Ties With PLO

TA0711112591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources believe that the United States will renew its contacts with the PLO when the bilateral talks start. The sources reported that the Palestinians were promised that if the talks are held in Washington, the U.S. Administration will grant visas to people identified with the PLO to help the members of the Palestinian delegation with the decisionmaking process. [passage omitted]

DFLP Members Resign From Palestinian Delegation

LD0711141391 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 7, IRNA—Two members of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference have decided to withdraw from talks with the Israeli delegation in protest against the process of the negotiations. According to informed Palestinian sources residing here, the two, Samir 'Abdallah and Mustafa al-Natshah from the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], have handed in their resignation to head of the Palestinian delegation Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

Delgate Frayj Says Talks To Resume by End of Nov

NC0811130791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Ilyas Frayj, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, has said that bilateral talks with Israel will be resumed in Washington and in another nearby city before the end of this month.

Hanan 'Ashrawi on List of Demands for Israel

NC0811090291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, asserted that there was no split among the Arab parties at the Madrid negotiations. She said the Arab parties formed a united front and that none of the parties showed slackness or made any concessions.

In a press interview, the Palestinian spokeswoman said the Palestinian delegation presented to the United States and the Soviet Union a list of Palestinian demands, saying Israel should be required to implement them before the start of negotiations as confidence-building measures. She said the Palestinian delegation would not condition its participation in the negotiations on the implementation of all these demands at once so as not to deadlock the negotiating strategy with a single alternative.

'Arafat, Syria's al-Asad Confer on Peace Talks

LD0711192991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The brother president and leader, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, conferred today at noon in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. During the meeting they assessed the peace process and the preliminary results of the Madrid conference, and they also exchanged views about the coming phase of the peace process.

The brother president Abu 'Ammar also conferred this morning in Damascus with the Syrian Vice President, Mr. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. During the meeting they discussed the first phase of the peace conference and the preparations for the second round.

The brother President Abu 'Ammar arrived in Damascus yesterday from Amman. He was received at Damascus Airport by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He made the following statement to the press:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] It pleases me to pay this visit to Syria after the Madrid conference. I am proud of the points that were recorded there. These points are shared equally in light of what the Syrian foreign minister did, as with his clear address he challenged the Israeli arrogance, and underlined the harmony among the Arab delegations, which indicated that rights cannot be lost as long as there are people pursuing them.

My visit to Damascus comes within the context of coordinating our efforts with my brothers here, with President al-Asad at their forefront, so that we can continue along this difficult path, which we chose for the sake of a just peace and not as a surrender which they try to impose on our Arab nation.

We would like to impose the will of our Arab nation in Madrid, and also after Madrid, in order to achieve the Arab rights, at the forefront of which is the liberation of honorable Jerusalem and the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, God willing, so that we can pray together in the first of the two qiblas and the third of the two holy places. [end recording]

PLO's 'Amr Stresses Arab Unity in Peace Efforts

PM0711162791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Nov 91 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Yasir 'Amr Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Palestinian Leadership Obtained All Institutions' Approval of Participation in Peace Conference"]

[Text] Amman—A prominent member in the PLO Executive Committee has said that the PLO's and the other Arab states' participation in the Madrid peace talks is an inevitable response to the international and regional development which the world is experiencing. And that the peace conference is convened on the basis of international legitimacy, whose strength is Resolutions 242 and 338.

Yasir 'Amr told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the pressing question that imposed itself on the Palestinian political scene before the convening of the peace conference was in brief: Should we agree to attend to the conference or not? And it was discovered that calculations with regard to the answer to that question should be based on the present international reality and the changes which the region and the world are experiencing. And indeed this was what happened, especially as the Palestinian leadership received a clear answer about the need to participate in the conference, that is from the Palestinian institutions represented by the Palestine National Council, the Central Council, and the PLO Executive Committee.

Yasir 'Amr emphasized that the Palestinian people, in all their groups on the inside and the outside, are one people who trust one another. He added that any Palestinian anywhere can talk about the cause, and we all give him every support, confidence, and backing.

He said that the Palestinian delegation participating in the conference and the other Arab delegations firmly and strongly represent Palestinian and Arab right. He expressed his belief that the outcome of the past days of the conference were in favor of the Palestinian people and their just cause. It represented an open trial of the intransigent Israeli policy and of the Israeli prime minister in particular.

The Palestinian official pointed out that the early results of the conference showed Israel in front of its traditional friends in the world as a state that usurps rights. Whereas the international community as a whole has understood the truth—in an unprecedented way—about the Palestinian and Arab position, which seeks and is determined to achieve a just, last, and comprehensive peace in the region.

He said: I can say that the Arab delegations participating in the conference have sincerely and firmly expressed the truthfulness of the Arab position, regardless of the allocation of roles, which have all been played in the interests of the just Arab cause.

Yasir 'Amr, who emphasized the depth of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination over the peace efforts being made, stressed the need to develop and adjust Arab relations in the interests of achieving the Arab peoples' aspirations, especially in these delicate circumstances in the nation's life.

In this context he pointed out that he is personally interested in the subject of improving Arab relations. He said: The PLO delegation's meeting in Damascus with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was a brotherly and warm meeting. And we hope that the meeting is a good opening for developing our relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all the Arab Gulf states to the level we want, in the service of higher pan-Arab interests and in the nation's interests, especially as we are fully aware of the need to create a strong Arab position capable of confrontation and opposition.

Delegation to Consult on Technical Committees

TA0711184191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] A Palestinian delegation consisting of Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah Abu-Shukr, Dr. 'Awni Badir from al-Najah University, and Mr. Faruq al-Hamdallah from 'Anabta left recently for Amman to hold consultations and to coordinate the establishment of technical committees to take part in the peace talks alongside the Palestinian delegation. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports the intention is to form 11 committees for economic, social, and medical affairs, and so forth. Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad

today denied reports that the Palestinians have formed special committees to take over self-government from the Civil Administration in the territories.

Tunis Conference Issues Call for Palestinians

LD0511211791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] An international conference for the defense of the rights of the Palestinian people, which convened in Tunis last Sunday, concluded its work at noon today by issuing a number of recommendations and a call entitled "The Call of Tunis."

Archbishop Capucci of Jerusalem read the call, which stated in particular:

The conference, in the name of the international conscience and the principles of human justice, calls on all democratic and peace-loving forces to do all they can to liberate all the occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem, from the Israeli occupation, and to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their constant national and inalienable rights, guaranteed them by the international legitimacy. Until the Palestinian people can achieve this, international protection should be provided to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in addition to the immediate cessation of Israeli settlements.

The call stresses the need to lift the historic injustice which has befallen the Palestinian people, and to establish peace and security in the region. It calls for restoring to international legitimacy its soul and credibility, considering that it is an indivisible unity that should not be applied to one case and then denied to another.

In conclusion, the call stresses that allowing the Palestinian people to enjoy their rights in full will constitute an element of enlightenment and efficacy for this international legitimacy, which will remain the best guarantee for peace in the world.

With regard to the recommendations adopted by the conference, the peace conference committee set up by the conference, called for forcing Israel to cease the settlement process in the land occupied in 1967, and for providing international protection to the Palestinian people, as this constitutes the only guarantee to deter Israel from continuing its violations of human rights, exemplified in deportation, exile, murder, detention, deprivation of nationals from exercising their sovereignty over their economic resources, and of their political rights.

The committee for the protection of the Palestinian people called for the immediate application of Security Council Resolution No. 681, which calls on all parties, signatories to the fourth Geneva Convention, to take effective measures, that will force Israel to respect all the treaty provisions.

During the conference, a follow-up committee was formed and was entrusted with the task of intensifying contacts with the international organizations and governmental and nongovernmental organizations, in order to further publicize the rights of the Palestinian people and reveal the ugly atrocities committed by the Israeli authorities of occupation against the Palestinian people, particularly the children in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and South Lebanon .

This conference was organized by Maghreban associations for the defense of human rights, and was attended by prominent international personalities and nongovernmental organizations concerned with the protection of human rights throughout the world.

Commentary Hails Madrid Talks Delegates

LD0711222191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, to our negotiations delegation returning from Madrid to the occupied homeland we say loudly and confidently: You have achieved for your people and homeland the first correct step along the difficult and long path, which we chose with our national will, toward peace, justice and right.

We say to our delegation returning to the land which is dearer and sweeter than all the other areas of the world: You are returning to continue and follow up the same mission. We will continue with you until the fulfillment of our legitimate rights and the implementation of the bases and principles of international legitimacy on this land.

The difficulties and obstacles are quite extensive and we have known them and understood them along the long years with severe suffering. However, at the same time we are able to go through all these difficulties and obstacles because it is the battle of peace, our peace which is the peace of the brave for us and for all the peoples and countries of the region according to UN the resolutions and according to the logic on which the Madrid conference is based.

Through you and through your skill in the civilized negotiating talks we gained the admiration of the whole world, and even the admiration of some of those who do not support our rights. You were the lawyers defending these rights; the alert guards of our future which will definitely be more beautiful and better than our present; and you were the ones who stood proud of our wounds and bright with our abilities despite of the most severe conditions and circumstances.

Our hopes are great under the horizon of right and justice. Yitzhaq Shamir's government, with its intransigence, arrogance, and repeated rejection, will not be able to frustrate these hopes. We are also confident that the international legitimacy, which strongly and firmly

stands by us, as we stand by it, will not let us down and will not give us anything unless it is according to its one legitimate standard.

We will not drop the olive branch from our hands, and no force will make us drop it, whatever the circumstances and however long the sacrifices might continue, until our independence, our independent identity, our right to self-determination, and the inevitable end of occupation flower from this branch.

Israelis Urged To Abolish Restrictive Measures

LD0611181391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] At the end of the opening session of the Madrid peace conference, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reproached the participants for their failure to deal with the human dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Although the U.S. secretary addressed his speech to all participating delegations, the most likely party to which the sense of his speech applies, and which can transalate its contents into a tangible reality, is the Israeli side, in its relations with the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

The human suffering expressed by the head of the Palestinian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation expressed in his opening speech was, and still is, the accompanying feature of Palestinians' daily life. The Israeli side, if it has good intentions for success of the peace process, can do a lot to reduce the intensity of the suffering, not only as an exercise in confidence-building measures between Israel and the Palestinians at this critical stage, but also as an indicator of the commitment to implement international agreements and treaties pertaining to human rights. The depth of the abyss of suffering has doubled in recent years.

Today we stand at the threshold of a promising peace process. The Palestinians have interacted and participated in opening such a process, and have expressed their desire to see it through. This is the greatest proof of their good intentions and their thirst for security. There is no reason for the continuing actions creating more pain and suffering, and weakening the arms stretched with olive branches.

Israel's continued closure of some higher education institutions, the application of the clean slate certificate, the imposition of hefty taxes, the isolation of villages, towns, and camps, and the imposition of harsh restrictions on movement, travel, building, and on reuniting dispersed families are all liable to contradict with the spirit of the phase in which we look for a just, permanent, and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The abolition of the above measures is an easy step, but it is important for the sake of removing the manifestations of tension and moving toward the return to a life respecting human and political rights, and in the bilateral interests of both sides, Israeli and Palestinian.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Outgoing SAARC Chief Discusses New Summit Date

BK0711161691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, now in Colombo, is to have talks with President Premadasa on bilateral issues tomorrow morning. She will also hold bilateral talks with the Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Later, they will together visit the hill city of Kandy. The three South Asian leaders who [as heard] are visiting Sri Lanka at the special invitation of President Premadasa after the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit they were due to attend in Colombo was postponed. The postponement came after King of Bhutan Jigme Wangchuk decided not to attend the summit due to preoccupations at home. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala also did not go to Colombo after the postponement of the summit.

The outgoing SAARC chairman, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, is now having talks with SAARC leaders on a fresh date for the summit. [passage omitted]

Premadasa Blames India for Postponment

BK0711144491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Premadasa, has said India's stand on the presence of the king of Bhutan led to the postponement of the Colombo SAARC summit. Speaking at a reception hosted for the visiting leaders of Bangladesh, the Maldives, and Pakistan in Colombo, Mr. Premadasa said the Sri Lankan Government has regretted the calling off of the summit. He also called for increased regional cooperation in trade and commerce. The president proposed a South Asian economic community after setting up of preferential trade area in the region.

In reply, the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, called for settling of regional disputes in accordance with the UN Charter. He also referred to the need for a regional ban on nuclear weapons.

Nawaz Sharif Disappointed at Postponement

BK0711163291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the emerging international order must be based on strict and nondiscriminatory adherence to international principles contained in the United Nations Charter. He was speaking at a state reception held by the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, in his honor as well as President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh in Colombo this afternoon.

The prime minister said small and medium-size states must be assured of their security and sovereignty through equitable and just settlement of regional disputes. Weapons of mass destruction must be banished regionally and globally, democratic and human rights upheld and preserved. The widening disparity between North and South must be bridged through lowering of tariff barriers, debt relief, reversal of net flow of resources from developed to developing countries, and above all, through a meaningful commitment to regional cooperation.

About the SAARC summit, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said its postponement at the 11th hour has been deeply disappointing to us all.

The prime minister referred to the traditional and historic links between the peoples of Pakistan and Sri Lanka and said these ties have been strengthened by their common perceptions on global and regional issues. He expressed his firm belief that his visit would accelerate cooperation in trade, education, culture, and development.

Welcoming the leaders from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Maldives, President Premadasa of Sri Lanka said it was a memorable occasion that three heads of government were visiting his country at the same time. In their speeches, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh spoke of their countries' close ties with Sri Lanka. They called for overcoming terrorism and border disputes in the region so that attention could be given to development and uplift of their masses. Radio Pakistan's special representative Bakhshis Ahmed reports that the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Colombo this morning on an official visit to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lankan president.

New Date for SAARC Summit Discussed

BK0711161891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 7 (AFP)—Leaders from four South Asian countries meeting in Sri Lanka were expected to set a new date Friday for the postponed South Asian summit, state-run Bangladesh Television said here Thursday.

In a report from Colombo, it said leaders from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Maldives were expected to hold separate talks with host President Ransinghe Premadasa and current Chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives Friday before deciding a new date.

The three-day annual summit was earlier scheduled to start Thursday, but was postponed indefinitely Wednesday as some leaders decided that the meet could not go ahead without Bhutan's King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk, a founder member. The king said he was unable to participate because of domestic matters.

BTV, which gave wide coverage of the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, her Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif and Gayoom, gave no other details or its source of the information.

The three leaders decided to pay state visits to the island republic despite the postponement of the summit as a "goodwill gesture."

Officials said Wednesday that Bangladesh, which mooted the concept of SAARC, has great stakes in promotion of the six-year-old grouping and Zia's visit was to renew the country's deep commitment to the body.

Dhaka was keen to see that SAARC continues to be "consolidated and blossomed with the passage of time," officials were quoted as saying.

SAARC, founded in Dhaka in 1985, groups Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Algeria

Explosions Heard on Tunisian Border

LD0611223491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Several explosions were heard today in the Souk Ahras Algerian-Tunisian border area. Correspondent Hocine Benmalik reports:

[Benmalik] Local citizens heard these explosions all along the border region. Teams of national gendarmerie from the districts of Merahna, Hedada, and Ain Zana investigated but could not determine the location of the explosions. No citizen has yet contacted the gendarmerie teams to give them information determining the place of the explosions or whether there were any casualties.

Some citizens attributed the explosions to mines left by the former colonialists.

Assembly Speaker Discusses Domestic Issues

NC0411153691 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Oct 91 p 12

[Interview with Algerian Assembly Speaker Abdelaziz Belkhadem by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran during the Palestine conference held between 19 and 22 October]

[Text] [ETTELA'AT] What has the Algerian Government decided about Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who are currently in prison?

[Belkhadem] They have not been imprisoned for their political beliefs and activities, for the Islamic Salvation Front and other Islamic parties are free to operate. These two people and some others are to be tried for creating unrest.

[ETTELA'AT] The front's spokesman was also arrested. Can you still say they are free to operate?

[Belkhadem] This person was arrested for calling for a mutiny in the armed forces, not because of his political activities.

This front is very active and organizes marches and demonstrations daily; your ambassador in Algiers can tell you how many are held in our country.

[ETTELA'AT] Why are Belhadj and Madani being tried by a military tribunal?

[Belkhadem] The current penal code allows this because the "national security" court has been dissolved, making their trial by military tribunal legal.

[ETTELA'AT] In view of the Algerian Government agreeing to the Middle East peace conference, does your presence here at the Tehran conference oppose the Algerian Government's decision?

[Belkhadem] Algeria has not agreed to participate in the Madrid conference, and from the start we have supported the principle that the Palestinian ideal should not be trampled on. I have come here as the representative of the Algerian people.

[ETTELA'AT] If you could choose between the Madrid and Tehran conferences, which one would you choose?

[Belkhadem] The Tehran conference is not related to the Middle East peace conference. I came here to express support for the Palestinian intifadah. There was nothing to choose from except support for the Palestinian uprising.

[ETTELA'AT] What influence do Ahmed Benbella and Ayat Ahmed have in Algeria, and how widespread is their support?

[Belkhadem] Less than you think.

[ETTELA'AT] What about the Islamic Salvation Front?

[Belkhadem] More than Benbella.

[ETTELA'AT] What about the ruling party?

[Belkhadem] Maybe equal. We have asked the Islamic Salvation Front and other political parties to participate in the elections so that we can determine each party's strength.

[ETTELA'AT] Why have they announced they will not participate in the elections?

[Belkhadem] I don't know, but I hope they will.

[ETTELA'AT] Is the Islamic Salvation Front refusing to participate because its leaders are in prison?

[Belkhadem] No. No. The two things are not connected. Do we want to defend an Islamic solution or to defend individuals? Islam is not confined to a party or an individual. If we want an Islamic solution then we should mobilize, hold elections, and overcome problems this way, not by glorifying individuals.

[ETTELA'AT] The Ghozali government has announced that it will sell the oil-rich Hassi Messaoud area to foreigners. Doesn't this threaten Algeria's independence and sovereignty?

[Balkhadem] We are not going to sell the area. We are going to sell oil. Does Iran not sell its oil? We gave 1.5 million martyrs to safeguard every inch of Algerian land; we will never sell one inch of it. We only sell oil, as you do.

[ETTELA'AT] Do you think that the Algerian Government will continue to move toward a multiparty system after the recent developments?

[Belkhadem] God willing. God willing.

[ETTELA'AT] Is the government able to tolerate this?

[Belkhadem] We are tolerating it.

[ETTELA'AT] But recent reports do not indicate this.

[Belkhadem] No, never. Never. We have 57 parties. Our municipalities are now in the hands of the Islamic Front, and we are moving toward multiparty elections. Let others accept what we have accepted.

[ETTELA'AT] Has the date for presidential elections been set?

[Belkhadem] Next year.

Prime Minister Denies Being Election Candidate

LD0611225791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali visited Bejaia today. [passage omitted] Correspondent Djahida Khalfaoui approached the prime minister and conducted a short interview with him:

[Begin recording] [Ghozali] [passage omitted on visits to country's historic sites]

[Khalfaoui] Sid Ahmed Ghozali, there are people who say that you are following in the footsteps of former Prime Minister Hamrouche and intend to enter the election. What is your comment on this?

[Ghozali] No, as you know, I am not nominated for the legislative elections. My campaign consists primarily of [words indistinct] or meeting citizens and giving them the facts. [passage omitted] I did not tell anyone to vote for this or that person, or for me, as I am not a candidate. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Salvation Front To Participate in Elections

LD0711213091 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] On the political level, and with the prospect of legislative elections, Mr. Adjerid held a news conference in Algiers today. The president of the National Salvation Front spoke essentially about the elections.

[Begin Adjerid recording] We are holding this news conference to say that we will take part in the elections, and that we are against the procedures of the assembly, which is settling the problems of the future. This is the object of this news conference in general. [end recording]

Adjerid also underlined the need to free the imprisoned leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Also, he did not rule out an alliance with the FIS during the elections.

FIS Rally Calls for Leaders' Release

LD0711232691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] provincial office in Sidi Belabes organized a popular rally this evening attended by members of the FIS Provisional National Bureau. Correspondent Larbi Saidi attended the rally and sent the following report:

FIS activists and citizens who attended the rally heard successive addresses by Abdelkader Moghni, Mr. Aissani, and Mr. Benaissa. They commented on the situation facing prisoners, particularly those belonging to the FIS, and the issue of reinstating sacked workers. They underlined the importance of the release of prisoners, in particular Ali Belhadj and Abassi Madani, and commented on the upcoming legislative elections. They made no mention of whether or not the FIS would take part in them.

Boxes to collect donations to help the sacked workers were set up.

The rally was well organized and trouble free. Those who took part in the rally shouted the slogans "There is no God but Allah" and "An Islamic state."

Egypt

Mubarak: Madrid Conference 'Significant Step'

NC0711181891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has underlined the importance of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, adding that peace is a necessity in all countries of the region, including Israel.

The president described the Madrid peace conference as a significant step toward regional peace. He reiterated that building new settlements does not support the peace process, noting that it is provocative and does not serve the objective of peace.

In an interview with Israel's MA'ARIV, President Mubarak emphasized the need for removing nuclear weapons from the entire region. The interview was given to Audet Granot, foreign and Arab affairs editor, and Shafiq Gabai, Arab affairs correspondent. The text of the interview will be published simultaneously by Egyptian papers and MA'ARIV. MA'ARIV's circulation increased by 20 percent yesterday, just because the paper published highlights of the interview on its front page.

The president replied to a question on why the peace conference was not held for years, despite his well-known efforts in that regard. The president replied: There are different views on this. Perhaps international conditions were not favorable and did not help.

He added: We had hoped the conference would be held at the proper time, but nobody responded. We were accused of treason, and you know what was said about Egypt and the late President al-Sadat. I believe that the new world order has considerably helped in convening the peace conference, which is a golden opportunity for

both Arabs and Israelis. If we miss this opportunity to achieve peace, despite all the hurdles along this road, we will all lose. Israel will lose and so will Arabs. Let me say frankly why Israel will lose: The land is there, and all people hold onto their land. Therefore, there must be a solution for the land.

I say here that Jerusalem will create immense problems for you as well as for us. Therefore, I hope you will stop talking about Jerusalem as the capital and such things so that we can sit together at the negotiating table and seek a solution for the holy lands and their status. Insisting on a certain status on Israel's part will serve to increase extremist acts against you. Jerusalem is not only an Arab issue, but an Islamic issue concerning Arabs and Muslims all over the world. Extremism will grow everywhere and ultimately lead to a wave of horrible religious strife. Religious problems enhance the extremists' eccentricity. The area will be the scene of terrible acts of murder and terrorism. I ask you: Do we need this? Let us be flexible enough to give and take and sit together, the president said.

Responding to a question on the Syrian hardline position, President Mubarak said: Let me tell you frankly that Syria doubts your intentions because you say "no" to everything.

The president added: I wish just once I could hear you say "yes" or that things are negotiable. Even in the prime of his rule, Menachem Begin used to say that everything can be negotiated. Such an approach gives hope, but you say "no" to everything.

Replying to a remark that Shamir says that everything is negotiable, the president said: No, no, no. I never heard Shamir say that things are "negotiable." Even our foreign minister, who met him in Madrid, heard him say no, no, no. By doing so, you block the road. You are closing the doors and making them an impenetrable concrete barrier. Lack of flexibility will have serious repercussions. We have to have insight into the future. Hardline stands should be encountered by flexibility and vice versa. Otherwise, the line linking the two sides will break. This is the way of life.

The Israeli correspondent repeated his question to President Mubarak on the reason for Syria's hardline position. President Mubarak said: They doubt that you will withdraw from the Golan. You are complicating matters. When negotiations started, you inaugurated a new settlement in the Golan, thus complicating matters. The question requires flexibility. Every time we ask them [not further identified] to negotiate they reply in the negative. You understand each other very well.

Replying to a question on whether the Syrian president does in fact want peace, the president said: President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace if it is achieved in a just way. I have spoken to him here many times. He really wants peace but there must be trust. You say that you do not trust them, and this is mutual. Trust must prevail between the two sides. He speaks to you about the Golan and you reply in the negative. This "no" blocks the way. If you reply "no" to everything, then why should I sit with you to negotiate?

Answering a question on why the talks have not started, President Mubarak said: The first session always gives hope that the parties will negotiate and proposals will be made, but you always look at the negative side of everything. There is a big difference between the word "no" and the expressions "let us find out together how we can open the closed door" or "let us work together" or "let us search together for ('the key)." But if you reply "I will not open the door," you are putting me in a difficult position before my people and this leads to harder positions and pressures. I tell you: If the opportunity is missed, it will not just be the Arabs who lose, but you, too. Look at what Iran is saying to you."

The correspondent here remarked: This is a rejection front. But the president said: There is no rejection front anymore. Let things be flexible so that matters can proceed. You cannot ask for flexibility from the Arabs alone. The matter is different here in Egypt. Egypt is a big country that knows what it is doing and where it is going. Yet, we are giving advice. The other countries' circumstances differ from Egypt's and this requires that your side deal with their circumstances so the process can continue if you want peace. But I am certain that President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace.

Replying to a question on Israel's exasperation with the united front against it during the negotiations, President Mubarak said: Let us be honest and realistic. Give me just one example of the united front against Israel so I can explain this matter to you.

The correspondent said Israel wants to negotiate separately with each delegation. President Mubarak replied: Israel will negotiate with each Arab delegation separately. You cannot say there can be no Arab coordination. This is a must, and Arab coordination is in the general interest. There is coordination, but in the interest of peace. You should not think that Arab coordination is against Israel; it is in the interest of peace. You must help us. You do not like to hear this but it is a fact, and I would not say it if I were not convinced of it. The aim of Arab coordination is not to hit Israel but to find a way to reach a just solution to the issue.

Asked whether inter-Arab coordination includes exerting pressure on Syria to make it engage in bilateral talks, President Mubarak said: Do not think I will disclose any such matter to you. Say this if you want to complicate matters. You as an Israeli do not accept pressure from the United States. Please tell me, do you accept such pressure?

The journalist said that according to some people Israel's attendance at the conference was a result of U.S. pressure and if the United States had not exerted such pressure, Israel would not have negotiated. The president replied: More than one official on your side says that you do not succumb to pressure from anyone.

Neither does Syria. The method to use is persuasion and dialogue. Please let us set the word "pressure" aside because it causes "high blood pressure."

Asked if he has been optimistic about the peace process since the Madrid conference began and in the wake of the sharp verbal exchanges between the parties, President Mubarak said: We all know what a war of words is. Your side began the war of words by calling Syria a terrorist country and making other accusations. The Syrian foreign minister answered you. Now this is over. Let us look ahead because if we look back we will not take a single step forward. What happened at the conference is already over and done with. The two sides must now show goodwill toward achieving a solution. It is not reasonable for us to be neighbors and maintain a constant state of war because this way neither side will achieve economic development. I tell you frankly that if we achieve peace, Israel will be the biggest winner in the region.

Responding to a question on the Arab rejection of a Middle East capital as a venue for the bilateral talks, President Mubarak said: Have you not come from Madrid? Are you not human like us? There is a psychological barrier between you and us or between you and them. Despite this you tell them come to Israel. How can they explain this to their people? What will they tell them? The beginning was Madrid, then Washington, and later you can meet somewhere in Europe. Let matters proceed gradually. When there is progress in the talks the parties will be encouraged to meet in the Middle East. Insisting on holding the talks in Israel now will not lead to progress. You understand this. You are insisting on meeting alternately in Israel and Amman. You go to them and they come to you. I know. But when this is being done publicly the people will oppose their leaders and the extremists will oppose them, too. Do you want to achieve a solution or to inflame the situation? If you want a solution, the ideal way is to reach understanding on these issues. When the psychological barrier is broken, there will be no problem. When we dealt with you for the first time, there was a popular rejection of those who went to and those who came from Israel. Anyone who says otherwise is not telling the truth. The ordinary citizen cannot accept you after four wars until there is peace and this psychological barrier is overcome. So there was an exchange of hate campaigns. This cannot be avoided unless the negotiations take place between statues.

Asked if the United States is seeking to impose a solution rather than establish peace, President Mubarak replied: There must be a party that can draw the other parties together and make them sit down and talk. After the first and second sessions of negotiations the process will go on by itself. Therefore it is necessary to have a party that can draw the two sides together and facilitate negotiations.

The president added: It is true that the U.S. President and Secretary of State Baker made a very big effort and will now transfer the peace conference to Washington, not merely to achieve an agreement but so we can reach the shore of safety.

To the question of whether Baker is carrying out his task in the manner of a school principal, President Mubarak asked: Why do you regard it as a school? He must speak to you this way so the peace process will move ahead. If he leaves you alone, matters will get out of hand.

The Israeli reporter asked if this is not U.S. pressure. The president denied it, saying: It is not U.S. pressure when I tell you that you have to negotiate. Is this pressure? I say that for your interest. You differ on this or that. Therefore, come to the United States. You should not be intransigent when it comes to the issue of the venue. You have to listen to me in this, even if it means you have to take a rocket to the moon with them. What counts is finding a solution to the problem.

The president was asked whether the Palestinians have learned lessons from past experience and accepted the Camp David accord that the late President al-Sadat invited them to sign. President Mubarak said: No one can solve a problem through war. War may be waged to press negotiators into sitting together to achieve peace, but war never settles anything. Even if one party achieves full victory in war, this leads to antagonism and antipathy. Resisting occupiers takes years and generations. One specific war may lead to negotiations, understanding, and suggestions so that things can take their rightful course.

The president continued: As for Camp David, international conditions have changed. The Soviet Union was against Camp David. It condemned Camp David and stood with and encouraged them against it. Now there is no room for that, because all are moving toward a peaceful solution.

The Israeli reporter noted that 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, chairman of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, has regretted the fact that he was not a party to the Camp David accord. The president said: He was right. But international conditions were adverse for the Camp David accord. Al-Sadat, may the Almighty have mercy on him, was far ahead of his time.

The president was asked whether the Palestinian delegation will replace the PLO leadership. The reporter was referring to Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni, as they had spoken and gave that impression. President Mubarak said: You blow this thing out of proportion. You have to be realistic. Let us put aside the issue of who said what and who did not and let us act. I have told you that international conditions in the past were different from what they are now. I advise you not to interfere in the PLO leadership and to put this matter aside, particularly at this stage, or any future stage. Only the Palestinians are entitled to make a decision in this respect. The president asked: Can any party other than you choose your leader?

The president repeated: Can anyone other than you choose your leader for you? Give the people that freedom. They are wise enough to make the decision that suits them. You are democrats; do not impose your wishes on anyone. Put this game aside. Do not waste the peace process by indulging in this game that you understand.

The president was asked to comment on whether Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni represent the future of the PLO. He said: Let them say what they wish. I advise you not to get involved in this matter. If you declare your views on this, you will trigger a reaction.

The Israeli reporter said Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Faysal al-Husayni are encountering several problems inside the occupied territories and that these problems are related to Islamic groups like Hamas. How will 'Arafat, Abu-'Ammar, solve these problems? The president replied: Leave this to 'Arafat; they are his problems, not yours. Are you not holding negotiations for peace? These are the representatives the Palestinian people and other parties selected. Let them handle the matter. We ourselves have extremist groups; who does not? Do you not have extremist Jewish groups? Are there not extremist groups in the United States, the Arab states, and the Soviet Union? It has become an international phenomenon. The Palestinians have a legitimate delegation which is negotiating within the framework of a Jordanian delegation. Hence, negotiate. The president asked why the Israelis are angry with Hamas and other organizations, adding that these problems will solve themselves. Whoever can offer anything more than what the legitimate Palestinian delegation is offering is welcome, he said.

The reporter remarked in one of his questions that Israel assumes a known position on the occupied territories. Nevertheless, he added, it has not made a decision to annex these areas over the past 23 years, opting to leave the future status of these areas to the peace talks. He added that Israel will implement what is agreed upon among the parties to negotiations. He then asked why Israel is being attacked in the media for assuming that position.

The president replied: Has Israel not annexed the West Bank and Gaza? Don't you read your papers? People do not look at things from the legal viewpoint. People listen to remarks like "no inch of land will be returned because they are the lands of Israel" and "the Golan is ours." Is it reasonable to hear you say that the Golan is yours and that Jerusalem is your capital and keep our mouth shut? This thing is out of our control. I cannot prevent a reporter from attacking such statements. Even if I prevent him here, he will express his views elsewhere. It is you who are creating problems. No one else creates these problems. I appeal to our writers to be moderate in these matters. But you make statements as though you are deliberately trying to create problems with the other side, whether these problems take the form of criticism or counterarguments. You are the ones complicating this matter.

Arabs for their part want a solution now. I wish you could hear what we are saying. I am advising you. Egypt has regained its lands and [word indistinct] a delicate and difficult dialogue. During negotiations, we competed in applying pressure and making maneuvers. We exhausted you and you exhausted us. But we maintained our cool until we eventually regained our lands through civilized means. We are aware that your annexation of the land is designed to create confusion, but the land is an issue for negotiations, not for annexation. By doing this, you are inciting people against you. In your statements, you have to give people hope that a solution will be found, so they will be prepared for peace.

Responding to a question about the impression prevailing before the Madrid conference that a meeting would be held between President Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, President Mubarak said: As long as he says no, I will also reply in the negative.

The journalist said: But Shamir said yes to the conference. The president replied: He said yes to the United States. He must tell me something so that I can tell the Egyptian people that I will meet with him. Everyone expects my meeting with Shamir to achieve something—something that leads us to peace. For this reason, we must be well prepared for such a meeting. When I intended to visit Israel in 1982, Ilyahu Ben-Alisar said that any Egyptian president must visit Jerusalem or not visit Israel at all. Is this the way to deal with us? This is arm-twisting or muscle-flexing. I will not accept this, and it is not the way to deal with another country. When the current negotiations begin, however, and an obstacle emerges that can be overcome and something important that nobody expects emerges, this will lead to great satisfaction. But if we meet and achieve nothing, problems begin to mount. You might ask me what these problems are. Well, many of your tourists come to Egypt and the people welcome them. Are you not aware of this? Do the Egyptian people treat them badly?

The journalist replied: The Egyptian people actually welcome them.

The president said: If a meeting took place and resulted in nothing, the people would say: Shamir has fooled the president. This would enrage them; fiery articles would be issued, inflammatory leaflets would be distributed, Israelis visiting Egypt would not be treated well because their prime minister had laughed at us, and problems would start. Do you want such problems? I do not, and say therefore that we must be prepared for a meeting. This is a point you do not understand well but it is very important. The people now welcome you and treat you well, but if you want problems between us then let us pursue the method you advocate.

Responding to a question on whether a meeting between President Mubarak and Shamir requires the solution of any issue between Egypt and Israel, President Mubarak said that such a meeting must produce something fundamental and tangible for the current negotiations and the peace process. There are no problems between us at present. A meeting with the Egyptian president must produce something in the interests of the Arab nation and the Islamic nation. You are aware of the positive effect this would have if we were to emerge from a meeting with a result in this direction. It would have an enormous effect. I would like to point out what must be achieved that we can study.

There are complex points on which contacts would take place between us and we would agree that Shamir would consent to what is sensitive to the Arab world. I do not seek what would be acceptable to the Egyptian people, of whom there are approximately 56 million representing the majority of the Arab people, but to emerge with something that satisfies Arab public opinion which would then a support a solution, just as we experienced in the Gulf war when Egyptian citizens were aware of the imminent dangers to the region because I used to talk to them in complete frankness and they stood by me. Other matters would be solved as long as the people's stand was solid.

Asked whether Egypt has specific conditions for holding a meeting between Mubarak and Shamir, President Mubarak said: I cannot determine anything specific, because if I do your media will interpret it as putting pressure on Israel. Therefore, these things should be effected calmly at the meetings in the course of negotiations. We will encounter many problems and walk a difficult road. Let us look for a major and basic problem, make contacts, agree to try to solve it together, then meet and announce that we have found a solution to a major problem. Such a meeting gives hope and opens closed doors. I would like to note here that when I met Peres in Alexandria, we agreed on arbitration and on the international conference. That is why the people welcomed and liked Peres, the Labor Party, and all peace-oriented Israeli figures.

The reporter remarked: Mr. President, Egyptian citizens like David Levi. The president said: I like David Levi as well.

The reporter said: Mr. President, David Levi did not go to the conference. The president replied: Your problems are none of my business. I am speaking very frankly and very realistically. This is my advice. When the press publishes it, Shamir will be angry.

The reporter said the Israeli people do not understand why no meetings were held between Egypt and Israel, particularly since there is nothing precluding this and relations between them are normal. The president said: There is an Arab issue. I met Peres when he was prime minister. Why? Because he showed flexibility. This relieves us. When it comes to Shamir, he says "no" to everything, to the Golan and the settlements. What can I do? Put yourself in my place.

The reporter said: Shamir began his talk with "yes." The president replied: Were there any stricter than Menachem Begin? I know that Shamir voted against Camp David. He was demanding that Egypt implement the Camp David accord. I told him that there was no need to talk because he was against it. Do you want me to implement an agreement that you yourself did not accept? Despite his aggressiveness, I talked to Begin more than once. He was open to discussion and dialogue. Despite his strictness, he responded to you when you talked logically.

The reporter said: The Likud's slogan at the previous elections was that only the Likud could achieve peace. He asked if this slogan could be repeated at the next elections. The president said: Let me tell you something. I deal with the legitimate government and do not interfere in the Likud's or any other Israeli party's affairs. We had friends in the Israeli Labor Party. But our dealing is with the legitimate government. The legitimate government proceeds toward peace. I believe that the Israeli people want peace. I do not think that Israelis are happy with the conditions they are living under. Anyone can be shot in the present state of occupation. Israeli citizens wants peace just like Arab citizens. They are human beings like us. Everyone is entitled to his own creed. I believe that everyone tends to hold onto a glimmer of hope, because this is the natural feeling.

The president was asked if he could say a word about the rejectionist front in the Arab world. He said: The rejectionist front is something of the past. It was against Egypt. They say that they want to liberate Jerusalem. Let them do that.

On Iraqi nuclear capabilities, the president said: To be fair, we are against their possession of nuclear weapons and against yours as well. Is it possible that you possess nuclear weapons and then say that they should not have nuclear weapons? It was you who opened the door. You made Iraq try to manufacture nuclear weapons. They had the necessary funds for that. I am against nuclear and biological weapons in the entire region. This region must be clean of all weapons. I believe that all this will end if we take the road to peace.

The journalist told President Mubarak that the experience in Kuwait proved that the party that possesses nuclear weapons will use them, not for peaceful purposes, but for terrorism and offensive purposes. The president asked: Can nuclear weapons be used for peaceful purposes?

The journalist said that nuclear weapons are for deterrence only, not for offensive purposes, but for defense. The president replied: Is this guaranteed? You must ask Shamir. You know well that when Iraq uses the bomb, you will also use the bomb and this will mean the destruction of the whole region. I tell you frankly, do not think that if you use nuclear weapons or the other

country uses them, the damage will be to you alone. It will affect all those around you. The damage could also affect us because nuclear fallout does not remain in one place. The consequence is that any party against whom nuclear weapons are used will use weapons of the same type. We will all be engulfed in the catastrophe and the region will be destroyed.

Asked if Iraq possesses nuclear weapons, the president said: We learned of this for the first time after the war. We do not approve of any nuclear weapons in the region.

Responding to a question on Iraq's and Saddam Husayn's future, President Mubarak said: We still maintain the view that the leader of any country is solely the responsibility of that country's people. It is not the responsibility of any other country. We do not intervene in the internal affairs of any country and people who believe that a leader is the one most suitable for them are free to keep him and they have to bear the consequences. There must be international supervision over nuclear materials. The same applies to you. "Or are you special?"

The journalist commented: Shamir will not allow this.

Mubarak replied: This is very strange. Do you want no one to possess nuclear arms except you? Get on with the peace process and let no party, not you, not them, nobody in the entire region have nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons can mean that this entire generation will be threatened or handicapped. All of us will be in a pitiful state.

Concerning the possibility that Iran, which does not want peace with Israel, might possess nuclear weapons, President Mubarak said: Why? Your relations with them are good and you have sold weapons to them. Have you forgotten this?

The journalist said that, nevertheless, the statements made by Iran's religious leaders call for struggle and jihad against Israel. President Mubarak replied: How can you speak of Iranian jihad while you are selling weapons to them? This means that both of you are deceiving us. You continue to supply them with weapons and they call for struggle against you. What is the matter? At any rate I do not want to discuss Iran now because we have no relations with it. I am restraining myself and not saying anything about Iran. I watch what is happening. The Iranians are not responsible for the world's Muslims. They are no more Muslim than we are, nor do they have more religious faith. We are the country of al-Azhar. We are the fortress of Islam. They cannot claim that they are responsible for Islam. We are a civilized country and know perfectly well what we are doing.

Asked about the stance of King Husayn and Jordan, which is now moving closer to Iran, President Mubarak said: Jordan has special political and economic circumstances. It is a country that includes various types of people and things. We must excuse them. I went and looked at the Allenby Bridge and saw people crossing over to your side at 0700 in the morning and returning at 1700 in the afternoon after their work was finished. Is it possible for me to fight you and be employed by you at the same time? Al-Sadat raised the Gaza issue with Begin when they met in al-'Arish and proposed to take it back as a symbol. Begin said he would think about it and two weeks later refused to hand it back.

The journalist said that Egypt had rejected all proposals about Gaza. The president replied: Wait. When I raised the issue with Begin, he said he would think about the proposal. After this the Palestinians used invective against us in this connection. They accused us of partitioning Palestine and made other similar charges. At this point Begin said he refused to hand the area back to us. After this Abu-'Ammar came here after leaving Beirut and asked to discuss Gaza. I said to him: Now you come to me and say take Gaza back after it has become overpopulated and full of disturbances with Hamas operating there. No. Leave it to be resolved with the overall issue.

Asked if there is another possible solution for Gaza, such as being joined in a confederation with Jordan and the West Bank, taking into account that Hamas now also operates in the West Bank, the president said that Hamas will change its ideas when it feels that real peace is coming.

In reply to a question about the peace treaty, President Mubarak said: In fact, the treaty itself is very good. The level of implementation so far is very good. I believe that there will be more cooperation in the region than a mere treaty once there is peace and we finish with the whole problem, God willing. We want to remove the existing psychological barrier and only peace, the good word, and hope can remove it. But you must hear these words and understand them. Our region will then be the best one in the world.

Replying to a question on whether there could be cooperation in the region similar to that among the European countries, President Mubarak said: Anything is possible. But we must bring about psychological comfort for people. Are you human beings just like the Arabs? They are human beings just like you. Does not a good word gladden your heart? Does not hope make you sigh with relief? There must be hope and flexibility. Nothing equals peace and there is nothing better than it. Peace leads to cooperation, affection, and meetings. You play a big role in removing the psychological barrier.

Regarding Egypt's role in the peace process, President Mubarak said: Can you see me talking about the peace process while you are impeding everything? What can I do? There is much in your hands so that we can help the peace process. Act to give us something with which to convince public opinion. Take this question of convincing public opinion. Can your prime minister do something against the wishes of public opinion? Can the U.S. President do anything against the wishes of U.S. public opinion? Of course it is impossible. Public

opinion has great value, and no leader in the world can act without popular support. Prepare public opinion. Give hope and flexibility, and their impact on the Arab world will be very positive. Don't just look to tomorrow, but five and 10 years ahead.

Asked his opinion of Ari'el Sharon, President Mubarak said: Sharon has nothing to do but get fatter and continue building settlements. Will you build in the Golan and then demolish the settlements and borrow money to build more? Think ahead and start acting accordingly today. Do you want peace or not? If you really want peace and not just talk, then your actions must indicate that peace is coming. But when I am in the midst of the peace process and I hear statements from here and there that we have to build a new settlement, and it was a settlement already built before, then it looks as if you are telling the other parties: Complicate matters because we do not want peace. It is as if you are telling the Syrians: We are giving you the excuse to say no because we do not want peace.

The Israeli correspondent asked President Mubarak: You said in one of your speeches that there were settlements before the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel but they were a marginal problem. Could the settlements problem now be marginal? The president replied: They would certainly discuss the settlements issue and it must be on the negotiating table. Of course there are already settlements, so what is the reason for building new ones? When you build new settlements it means that you have no intention of seeking peace. Hence, citizens here say that they are continuing to build settlements and therefore they do not want peace. This is what public opinion is saying, that they have bad intentions. You are the ones who are giving this impression. You are certainly giving the same impression to Israeli citizens and therefore they say no, we will not give back the land. We want to resolve the issue and I am ready to talk with you until morning. You either convince me or I convince you.

The president was asked: With whom do you want to talk? He replied: With anyone. The correspondent said: Sharon, for example? The president said: Sharon, no; he would come to Cairo to build a new settlement. Still, he can build several settlements for us in the desert and then leave them.

In reply to a question on the peace talks with Israel since coming to power, President Mubarak said: First, I was very intent on all aspects of peace despite some provocations by your side during the withdrawal from Sinai and the Tabah negotiations. We overcame them, controlled our nerves, and obtained the court's ruling. You did not want to implement it and I told you: I know that you honor your word. You then implemented the court ruling.

Responding to a question on the achievements in which he takes pride now that he has ruled for 10 years, the president said: Over the past 10 years I was concerned with the internal situation. For years, our infrastructure—roads, water and sanitary drainage networks, railway lines, and housing—has suffered deterioration. There was no private sector capable of providing job opportunities. It is unreasonable to let the government do everything. We established new cities to absorb the growing population. We started by giving attention to establishing a new telephone network. We only had 500,000 telephone lines, 300,000 of which were out of order due to the wear and tear of telephone exchanges. Today we have 2.2 million lines, state of the art telephone exchanges, and new telecommunications cables. Before that, you had to wait for days to make a long distance call. It was easier for you, if you were an investor, to travel abroad to make the call. Today, you can contact any country in the world from anywhere in Egypt. You can get in touch with America, Japan, Israel, France, England, or Australia. This, in itself, was essential for our infrastructure.

The president added: When it comes to electricity, it was difficult to supply light to homes and factories. There was no investment or production due to the weakness of our electricity network. I was visiting a certain factory and was told that the factory had to stop for three hours because there was no electricity. Take a look at the electricity plan. When I came to office, our electricity output was 18 billion kilowatts/hour. Egypt had electricity in 1906. Until 1981, our electricity output was only 18 billion—18 billion in 75 years. During the first five-year plan, 1982-87, we added 27 billion kilowatts/hour, bringing the total output to 45 billion. In a few months, we will produce 73 billion kilowatts/hour. If it were not for this, our factories would have not been able to operate, particularly since we are building 13 new cities in the desert. Some of these cities are industrial, like the 10th Ramadan city, which has approximately 480 factories; and the 6th October city on the Cairo-Alexandria desert road near al-Fayyum.

Other cities are agricultural, like the new Burj al-'Arab, the new al-Salihiyah, al-Nubariyah, and new Bani Suwayf. We have also built a network of huge bridges over the Nile. We are currently building a new city on the eastern bank of the Nile inside the desert. This city has many factories, mostly of the private sector. I am giving them the opportunity. If it were not for developments in electricity and the telephones, military factories that have been manufacturing civilian products for several years would not have been there. In the housing sector, we built one million housing units during the first five-year plan, more than the number built over 20 years. In the railways sector, we completely renovated the railways authority and its various establishments, including railway lines. The Cairo-Alexandria train used to cover the distance between the two cities in four hours. It now covers it in two hours. We also built double railways in many areas.

Touching on radio and television, President Mubarak said: Of course you watch Egyptian television in Israel. You are not alone in this; many Arab countries receive

our programs. We also renovated the sanitary drainage network. The project cost 5 billion Egyptian pounds in Cairo alone, in addition to another 3 billion in Alexandria, apart from other governorates. We also built new potable water plants everywhere in the republic. Ships were always delayed at the sea ports. We expanded Alexandria port, built the new Damietta port, expanded the Suez port, and built al-Adabiyah port.

We also built many roads and hotels, because public utilities are the foundation. When you want to build a block of apartments, you have to lay a good foundation for it. The higher the building the deeper the foundation.

Our basic concern is potable water, electricity, railways, airports, and hotels to help the tourist industry flourish. This will eventually help industry flourish and create new industries.

President Mubarak then asked the Israeli correspondents: Why don't you import from us? You import from abroad while we have everything. The correspondents asked the president: Why doesn't Egypt import from Israel? He replied: What do you have that we can import? We have many things here that you can import from Egypt. As to the military industries you have, we have similar ones. Anyhow, the era of these weapons will end and they will end up in the scrap market when there is peace.

Replying to a question on what he can tell the Israeli people, particularly as the region is now going through historic changes and grave events, President Mubarak said: All I can tell the Israeli people is that they, like other people in the world, love peace and desire its achievement because, like other people, they want to live and build. God Almighty created man on earth to build and not to destroy and wreck. This cannot be achieved until there is peace. I tell you very frankly that peace deserves every sacrifice. Some Israelis might not like this but I stress again that peace deserves every sacrifice. When the Israeli people taste peace and tranquillity, they will then know that they should pay and give everything for the sake of achieving peace. Peace is safety, tranquillity, good relations, and cooperation with neighbors and all countries in various fields.

In reply to a question on the time needed to achieve peace, the president said: I believe and hope that it will not be more than six months—but this depends on you—and one year at the most if intentions are really good. It will be real peace in the Middle East when we reach peace and agreement on the territories. Then rest assured the people will be relieved. Of course, you are going to find some naysayers and rejectionists. But the supporters of peace and just solutions are the ones who will convince the rejectionists. They will act for the sake of peace. We must not fear the existence of rejectionists. There will be people who reject the peace process. There are also people against the peace conference because they do not understand. This is why I explained the dimensions of the peace cause to our university students in my speech last Sunday. I told them everything and spoke frankly about the real situation and developments.

The Israeli correspondent asked the president: We have many squash courts in Israel and we know you like to play this game. Why don't you come and play there? President Mubarak replied: If I play squash there, I will play against Shamir, either Shamir or Sharon. The correspondent said: That is not fair. Your Excellency is an excellent squash player and they are not. The president said: I will teach them.

The correspondent asked him: Why don't you play another game with them, such as ping pong? The president replied: No, that is a soft game. I want Sharon with me in the squash court to make him run a little.

At the conclusion of the interview, the two correspondents thanked President Mubarak for the meeting and this clear and frank dialogue and for his excellency's frank and beneficial replies. They also wished his excellency the sincerest wishes and goodness, happiness, and prosperity for the Egyptian people on behalf of the MA'ARIV editorial team. The president replied: I wish the Israeli people peace. I hope that your leaders, and I am confident of this, are well aware of the meaning and value of peace and that they will show the necessary flexibility for the sake of their people and other people so we can put an end to the bloodshed, get rid of these deep hatreds, and start to remove the old accumulated layers of hatred, antipathy, and grudges and build in their place good relations based on peace, love, and construction.

Foreign Minister Musa Meets 'Arafat Adviser

NC0711155491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

Following the meeting, Dr. Sha'th stated that the meeting assessed the initial stage of the Madrid peace conference and all of the related developments. He added that the discussion at the meeting also focused on the future steps and the upcoming negotiations, which probably will be held in Washington. He noted that the Palestinian side will demand during these negotiations that the building of settlements be halted as a major first step. This will be followed by a study of the agenda, particularly the issue of transferring full authority to Palestinians through a transitional government, he said, adding that the Palestinians will point out the political basis to which they will be committed during negotiations.

Dr. Sha'th added that 'Amr Musa has asserted that Egypt will provide all necessary support for the Palestinian

stand. He added that the two sides have agreed to hold meetings before going to Washington.

He pointed out that the Palestinian delegation will make every possible effort to achieve Arab harmony, noting that 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Cairo for further consultations on Arab coordination.

Dr. Sha'th commended the role played by the Egyptian delegation during the peace conference and in coordinating Arab stands.

Holds Talks With Soviet Envoy

NC0711171691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo, who said they discussed developments in the Middle East.

The Soviet ambassador said the USSR is holding contacts with the United States and the various parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli dispute to speed up the resumption of bilateral talks. He affirmed that the Soviet Union will make a positive contribution to pushing the peace process ahead.

He reiterated that the Soviet Union is against Isreal building settlements in the occupied Arab territories because this runs counter to UN resolutions and the fourth Geneva convention. He said the Soviet and Egyptian stands agree in this respect.

Comments on Contacts Over Bilateral Talks

NC0811113091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said Egypt is currently holding intensive contacts with the United States and other parties concerned with the Middle East crisis on the bilateral talks and the second phase of the peace conference, scheduled to begin in Washington within the next two weeks.

Musa said the concerned parties will hold talks aimed at implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 so that a just solution to the Palestinian issue can be found.

Damascus Declaration Ministers To Meet in Cairo

NC0811114091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced that experts from the eight Damascus Declaration signatory states will meet in Cairo tomorrow to prepare for the meeting of their foreign ministers that is slated to begin on Monday [11 November].

Musa said the foreign ministers would discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among the Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria in the security, political, economic, and information fields.

The foreign ministers, who will start arriving in Cairo tomorrow, will conclude their meeting on Tuesday.

Mauritania

Malian Minister Requests Aid on Northern 'Crisis'

LD0811062491 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Military Committee for National Salvation and chief of state, received this afternoon Malian Foreign Minister Tiebile Drame, who gave him a letter from Malian President Major Amadou Toure. [passage omitted]

Following the audience, the Malian envoy made a statement to our correspondent, Mohamed Lamine Ould Bekkar, in which he said that he had delivered to the president a letter from his brother Amadou Toure concerning the consolidation of relations of friendship and brotherhood which already exist between the two countries and also and especially the problem in the region. The Malian envoy said that his country lives with a crisis in its northern part and that the Malian president is seeking the help of neighboring countries, especially Mauritania, in finding a negotiated settlement to that problem. He emphasized the role that Mauritania could play in resolving the problem because of the many-centuries-old relationship between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Minister Chairs Meeting on University Disturbances

LD0511222691 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri, in the presence of Mustapha Belarbi Alaoui, justice minister; Dr. Taieb Chkili, minister of national education; and Abdelkebir Alaoui M'Daghri, awqaf and Islamic affairs minister, presided over an expanded meeting which was attended by General Aziz Wazzani, director general of public security; Gen. Hosni Ben Slimane, commander of the Royal Gendarmerie; and his majesty's governors and walis in New Agadir, Beni Mellal, Oujdah, Kenitra, Tetouan, and Mohammedia. The meeting was attended also by the deans, rectors, and heads of universities, colleges, schools, and higher institutes and officials in charge of university campuses, as well as by senior officials of the Ministries of the Interior and National Security.

At the beginning of the meeting those present heard detailed reports by the deans and principals of the

universities and colleges regarding the university entry for this year and the measures that have been taken at college and university campus levels. All those who spoke reaffirmed that the atmosphere in which lectures are being delivered is characterized by seriousness and vitality and that the majority of students wish to pursue their studies in a calm and peaceful atmosphere. Those who took the floor discussed the incidents affecting some universities, especially the Universities of Fes, Oujda, and Kenitra, and pointed out that these establishments witnessed violent confrontations between two extremist groups of students during which armed combat took place with sharp weapons, sticks, and iron bars. In fact, the issue went so far that some students were kidnapped, interrogated, and tortured.

The university officials were of the view that universities are revered and enjoy freedom but that when the matter goes as far as injury, kidnapping, and killing, this then comes under the framework of public security and the need to maintain it with all legitimate means—hence the intervention by the security force at the onset of these incidents. This intervention was carried out in a decisive and speedy manner which prevented the deterioration of the situation. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Speaks on Anniversary of Takeover

LD0711133591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0923 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Address to the nation by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at ceremony marking the 7 November 1987 deposition of former President Bourgiba in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Citizens: Every year on this day since the change of 7 November [the 1987 deposition of former President Bourguiba] we have been accustomed to commemorating this anniversary and to addressing you on the state of the nation and what we have achieved together in the course of progress, the difficultes and challenges on our way, the trends and programs we are establishing for the future, and the hopes we are pinning on the future and are seeking to realize in cooperation between us all.

During the last four years, and thanks to the comprehensive nature of the plan and the clarity of the vision we have followed, as well as the firm pillars we have laid down for our economy and our development work in general, and despite the difficulties marking this period, we have succeeded in taking important steps on the road to comprehensive and balanced development, in embodying the principles of 7 November.

While the first years of the change were marked by natural and climatic difficulties that intensified international and local economic difficulties, and by the domestic effects of the programs to reform the structure of our economy, last year we were also not spared by domestic and foreign difficulties. By its direct effects and consequences, the Gulf crisis constituted the most prominent recent test for the national economy in the d main of tourism, exports, investment, and the job market. This crisis occurred after our country had realized a 6-percent growth rate and had begun to experience a real and promising economic revival. The crisis changed the course of the development and caused some confusion, especially for growth, employment, and general balance.

Meanwhile, a group of obscurantist extremists tried to use the opportunity to exploit the nationalist and religious feelings of Tunisians, men and women, to direct the country into mazes with dire consequences. This was aimed at complicating the course [of the country] and spreading chaos and confusion.

Citizens, the nation's economy has acquired a firmness that has helped it face up to the incidental difficulties that have occurred in succession and without interruption, at a time when we were making all our efforts to clear up the vestiges of the past and to reform our economic situation. At the beginning of the year predictions were based on stagnated production, diminishing investment, less job creation, a deterioration of the trade deficit and balance of payments, and additional pressure on the general budget of the state. But, thanks be to God, the yield of the year seems much better than these predictions. In fact, positive growth of about 2.8 percent is expected in the production rate. This is due to a large extent to the excellent agricultural season, and also to some other active sectors such as exports, industry, and tourism that in the end have been able to offset the effect of the crisis. [passage omitted]

Upheavals on the international scene are still intense and will most certainly continue, carrying with them deep changes at the level of the redistribution of the economic weight [of nations] and the emergence of new regional blocs. Some difficulties and pressures have already begun to appear at the level of foreign investment. We must seriously prepare ourselves for these developments so that we may be able to turn the hidden dangers into opportunities available for development and progress, especially through the wise use of these investments, the mobilization of national savings, and the more efficient use of our national resources. [passage omitted]

We express our satisfaction with the positive signs that recently appeared in relations between the Arab states, and we hope that contacts and dialogue will continue between the Arab sides to strengthen the climate of trust and to lay down strong relations based on mutual respect, common interest, and efficient fraternal solidarity. The presence of Tunisia at the current [Madrid] peace conference and its continuous support for the efforts made to resolve the Middle East crisis emanate from Tunisia's permanent attachment to peace, respect for international legality, the adoption of dialogue and negotiation in resolving conflicts, and from Tunisia's conviction of the just nature of the

Palestinian issue and the need to resolve it, as well as the issues of the region, in accordance with UN resolutions, so as to guarantee a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East.

While expressing our satisfaction at the convening of this conference, we believe that winning the betting on peace will be proportional to the sincerity of will and seriousness, as well as to the eagerness to respect international legality and to impose the will of law, so as to guarantee the lifting of the injustice against the Palestinian people, the recognition of their legitimate rights, putting an end to the settlement policy, the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab lands, including holy Jerusalem; bringing about a climate of mutual trust, and laying down a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace between all the parties to the conflict in the region. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Security Accord With U.S.

PM0711162291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Nov 91 p 2

[Fayhan al-'Utaybi report: "Salim al-Sabah Says: There Will Be No U.S. Troops on our Territory"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has denied that the U.S. Administration will interfere in Kuwaiti policy, domestic or foreign. He said that there will be no U.S. troops on Kuwait's territory. He emphasized that the security agreement with the United States maintains security and stability for Kuwait and the Gulf and was concluded at the Kuwaiti people's wish.

He said that a restoration of relations with the Arab states that supported Iraq would be premature. He emphasized that "we are Arabs and will remain Arabs, because we belong to the Arab nation." He denied that there was a disagreement between Kuwait and the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, affirming the depth of the strong ties between the governments and peoples of the two fraternal states.

This came in a lecture delivered by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah yesterday, Monday, at Kuwait University's Faculty of Commerce, Economics, and Political Science under the title "Kuwait and the Post-Liberation Challenges." [passage omitted]

On security agreements between Kuwait and the other states, Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that "the war to liberate Kuwait resulted in the possibility of discussing the realization of Gulf security in order to reassure the people of Kuwait and the Gulf about the future. After the liberation of Kuwait—with God's help and the help of brothers and friends—there was an overwhelming wish on the Kuwaiti people's part that was in line with the state's aspirations with regard to guaranteeing the region's security and security strategy in Kuwait. The security agreement with the United States emerged as a result. It means that the United States stands by Kuwait in the event of its being exposed to a threat. This is a political and military warning to any quarter intending to pursue any kind of ambitions in the future. The agreement indicates that there is a military force which will help Kuwait if its security and stability are harmed. The agreement has political and economic effect, with regard to both Kuwait and the Gulf region. This is in addition to its international effect."

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah pointed out that the "U.S. Administration does not interfere in Kuwait's policy, internally or externally, indicating that U.S. interference in Kuwaiti policy is nil."

He also said: There will be no U.S. troops on Kuwaiti territory—as proof of Kuwait's independence. The security agreement with United States means that there is coordination and a training program between the Kuwaiti Armed Forces and the U.S. Armed Forces through the stockpiling of U.S. equipment in Kuwait for the purpose of training and use when needed. The agreement also involves annual joint maneuvers to be determined by the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry. No force will enter Kuwait without permission from the Kuwaiti authorities. This is stipulated in the agreement.

He announced that there are political, security, and economic interests that bind Kuwait to the United States and Europe, which is natural and which was the case before the Iraqi invasion. He emphasized that the spirit of the Damascus Declaration is a sincere Arab spirit based on a common destiny, justice, and the principles in which the governments and peoples of these states believe.

The Damascus Declaration, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said, perpetuates the unity of Arab ranks and safeguards the security and stability of Kuwait in particular and Gulf security in general; he added that the declaration has an effective role within the Arab League or at the international level. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that there are those who want to sever Kuwait's relationship with its sister, Saudi Arabia, but they will not be able to do so because the relationship is stronger than the rumors. I have heard that I telephoned Ambassador Ahmad al-Fahd and that there was discussion and defamation of the Kingdom, but I would like to emphasize that this is all mere lies and talk to which we should pay no attention.

He emphasized that Kuwaiti-Saudi relations are strong and staunch, at the level of the king and amir, the governments, and the peoples, and added that relations will grow stronger and that reunion and cooperation will continue between the two states.

On the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said: Kuwait devotes full attention to the prisoners issue, at the level of the amir, the government, and individuals. The government has used every means to secure our prisoners' return, but the Iraqi regime is procrastinating. It is an intransigent regime, and we are putting pressure on it in every international forum and through the legitimate channels. [passage omitted]

He said that Iran "is a neighboring Muslim state whose existence in the Gulf cannot be denied, and we should deal with it on the basis of good-neighborliness and an exchange of views on international relations in order to safeguard Gulf security and safety. [passage omitted]

Israeli 'Tactics' in Madrid Analyzed

PM0611115291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 3 Nov 91 p 1

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "Why Syria?"]

[Text] The aim Israel is seeking to achieve at the peace conference is now clear to all observers. The aim is in

line with its strategy, religious claims, and the ideological framework governing its performance and management of the Arab-Israeli conflict over the past four decades.

Israel's "tactic" started with Prime Minister Shamir's leadership of the delegation, when what was required was its foreign minister's attendance. Shamir led a Torah attack, arming himself with religion, historical claims, inherited stipulations, and many other allegations and claims. The Israeli prime minister began by attacking Syria, in the belief—shared by those who manage his crisis—that the attack on Syria would receive a response from the West, especially with regard to his fabricated charges about the treatment of Syrian Jews, discrimination between citizens, and other lies. Shamir crowned his Torah performance by announcing his need to return to Israel in order to not to miss the holy day. Last came his and the delegation members' insistence that the other early stages of negotiations should be conducted in Israel and the Arab capitals concerned.

What was the aim of that performance?

In my view, the Israeli administration tried to achieve three aims:

First, attacking Syria is part of the application of the old military rule of "striking the commander's tent." This, because Syria is the largest and strongest state now confronting Israel. According to Israeli logic, if Syria is terrorized, the other states will surrender. Israeli planners tried to tell the world that the problem of the "inability to achieve peace and the lack of desire for it" lies on the Arab's shoulders. Unfortunately, some Western media circles swallowed that bait and started, just like Israel, promoting the Israeli claims, attacking and listing the Arab side's points of weakness. But Israel failed completely in its aim. Syria's response at the conference was decisive. It emphasized Shamir's personal history of terrorism and stressed that the law in Syria, like all world states, does not grant privileges to some citizens and deny them to others on the basis of their religion. They are all equal before the law, regardless of their religions and beliefs.

Second, the use of the Torah and religious citations is designed to confront Arab right, which is corroborated by historical facts and events, with a religious approach inciting as much zeal as the coalition with the right-wing parties and extremist groups in Israel. In my view, Shamir addressed his speech not so much to the participants in Madrid as to the religious groups in Israel and to Jews throughout the world, trying to arouse their feelings and dreams.

Third, to obtain everything without offering anything. What is the significance of moving negotiations to Israel and the Arab capitals? All it means is the Arab's recognition of Israel and presenting Israel with this gift without its offering anything in return. This, because when the Arabs go to Israel they are recognizing Israel without Israel's offering anything for the sake of peace.

The truth about which no two people can disagree, in view of the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict and in view of what happened in Madrid, is that the Arabs are seeking peace. Our heritage with regard to coexistence with other religions is not new to our culture as Arabs and Muslims. Historians and history books are almost unanimous that the Jews have on many occasions sought help from the Arabs and Muslims to defend them against the oppression that they were suffering. The Arabs' history confirms that the greatest period of prosperity for the Jewish minorities was under Arab, Islamic rule. Tolerance constituted the very fabric of the Arab states. History tells us that there was no previous Jewish state from which we can judge their tolerance. The present reality since Israel's establishments condemns them in this regard. We have incidents in the past, and history confirms and reinforces what we say.

The tide of fanaticism launched by Israel today reflects an empty substance and a recourse to arbitrary delusions and such ideas as religious fanaticism and Torah dreams, which are part of the political game and designed to begin with the highest ceiling in any negotiations in order to obtain whatever it wants. But we Arabs have a historic opportunity for peace, and this time we must not waste the possible for the sake of the impossible.

Saudi Arabia

Report on Fahd's Address to Kuwaiti Delegation

LD0611214991 Riyadh SPA in English 1955 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, Nov. 6, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received here Tuesday evening the Kuwaiti popular delegation led by former speaker of the Ummah Council Ahmad Zaid al-Sarhan.

The Saudi monarch said in a speech at the meeting that every Saudi and every Kuwaiti used to think of the power of Iraq as a power of the whole Gulf region and the Arab nation as well.

He pointed to the problems of Iraq during its eight-year war against Iran, saying: We never wished for these problems to occur, because her (Iraq's) problems would reflect on the rest of the Gulf states in one way or another.

He also recalled his first meeting with Saddam Husayn in Algeria, during the 1975 OPEC summit, which was an opportunity the custodian of the two holy mosques seized to discuss the misunderstanding on borderlines between Iraq and the Kingdom.

King Fahd also recalled a time when he visited Iraq just before the Iraq-Iran war, when Saddam told him that Iranians keep storming through the Iraqi borders and capturing groups of Iraqi people.

He said that at the time, he sensed that Saddam intends to enter into a war against Iran, and recalled that he had asked Saddam if he had contacted the Iranians. He added that Saddam had told him the Iranians were fighting amongst themselves and that it would be his only chance (to attack).

The custodian of the two holy mosques said he had advised Saddam to speak to Iran as a Muslim country and suggested that non-Arab Islamic countries could consider the problems and be the judge of who is wrong. 'Saddam said: Those people do not listen to words, they only understand the language of force', recalled the Saudi monarch.

King Fahd said the reason he was telling this story is to prove that fighting can never lead to positive results, because in war the victorious and the loser are the same, since they both taste the pain. He stressed that Saddam always has a tendency towards fighting.

King Fahd pointed out the Iraq had attacked Kuwait twice and that the Saudi Army, followed by the Egyptian one were the first to reach Kuwait. He also pointed out that during the long years of the Iraq-Iran war, the Kingdom took up good offices to reach a settlement.

He said that with Iran out of the way, the Iraqi ruler started to turn to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He pointed to the confusing cancellation of the 1975 Iraqi treaty with Iran and then telling the Iranians he would renew the same treaty, following the invasion of Kuwait.

Confirming that Saddam had reassured him, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and other Arab leaders that he would not attack Kuwait, the custodian of the two holy mosques indicated that the Iraqi president had expansionism and aggression in mind.

He said that the problem of oil production had been solved through his contacts with Shaykh Jabir of Kuwait and Shaykh Zayid of the United Arab Emirates, but stressed that Saddam was looking for a reason to invade the tiny emirate.

Referring to the Iraqi allegation that Kuwait was a part of Iraq, the Saudi monarch said the 1932 and the 1963 agreements provide the best proof for an Iraqi recognition of Kuwait, and so do the acceptance of the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Arab League and the exchange of ambassadors and diplomatic missions between Iraq and Kuwait.

He wondered if Kuwait or Saudi Arabia were occupying Baghdad and forced it to officially recognize the emirate at that time. He stressed that neither Iraq, nor the Iraqi president then Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr were forced to accept the 1963 agreement.

He also stressed that the independence of a country is not measured by its population and pointed out that Kuwait has always been an independent state.

Recalling that for five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait the Kingdom had not said a word, he stressed that this was not because Saudi Arabia was unable to deplore this act of aggression, but because deploration is only words.

He said he then called on powerful countries, foremost among which were the United States, Britain, France, Egypt, Syria, Morocco and Pakistan to support the Kingdom and pointed to their unconditional acceptance of his request.

'The tragedy we faced never occurred to the minds of any Kuwaiti, Iraqi, Saudi or any other Arab', he said adding that this incident would always be remembered in the history of the Arab nation. 'But he (Saddam) alone is responsible for it, not the Arab nation', said King Fahd.

Confirming that he personally is an advocate of Arab League conferences and Arab summits even if they do not always yield the desired results, the Saudi monarch stressed that they are the only way to join the Arabs in one framework and one order.

He also pointed out that whether we like it or not, politics are stirred by financial considerations.

King Fahd then welcomed the Kuwaiti brothers in the Kingdom, on behalf of the Saudi Government and people and expressed his personal appreciation of the visits of Kuwaiti brothers, whether they are media men, National Assembly members or distinguished personalities in their homeland.

He stressed that life can be cruel sometimes as a test from Allah and recalled in that connection the plights of some leading Islamic personalities throughout history.

He expressed his hope that the people of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would always be as one, as time has proved. He also emphasized his happiness at meeting the members of the Kuwaiti popular delegation.

Member of the Kuwaiti delegation 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud al-Babta'in delivered a speech at the meeting in which he conveyed the warm greetings of the Kuwaiti people to the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Saudi people.

He also expressed the appreciation and admiration of the Kuwaiti people to the rare courage of the Saudi monarch and his wise decisions and lauded the great sacrifices of the Kingdom during the Gulf crisis.

He prayed to Allah to bless the Saudi monarch with health, safety and internal peace and thanked the loyal Saudi people.

King Fahd Congratulates Gorbachev

LD0711135691 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 7, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has sent

a cable of congratulation to the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev on the occasion of his country's national day anniversary. King Fahd, on behalf of the Saudi people and government, expressed the heartfelt compliments to President Gorbachev and wished for the friendly Soviet people constant progress and more prosperity.

Newspapers Continue Comment on Madrid

LD0611122991 Riyadh SPA in English 1226 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 4, SPA—The Saudi newspapers resumed today their comments on Madrid peace conference, which ended last Friday. Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said some quarters have been inquiring: Why does Israel insist on shifting the peace talks to Israel or the other Middle East countries like Syria, Jordan and Lebanon? Israel believes that [the] arrival of Arab delegations to Israel for talks will mean implicit Arab recognition with the Zionist entity, said AL-BILAD. But the Arabs have the right to reject the idea of holding talks in Israel because such development should only be discussed at the final stages of the peace talks, added the daily.

'UKAZ, which is also published in Jeddah said the three-day conference in Madrid has made it clear that the Arab unified stand constitutes the major element for serving the Arab causes. The Arabs have collectively addressed the world from Madrid, said the paper. The Arab solidarity as the Arabs' sharp weapon, said the daily noting that the Arabs are keen on restoring of their rights and ensuring peace and security in the region.

Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH deplored the Israeli maneuvers and said by such maneuvers Israel is trying to block the peace efforts. Israel is aware of the fact that peace which comes in line with the international resolutions will force Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, added the paper.

Dammam-based AL-YAWM praised the wise and rational manner in which the Arab delegations presented their cause at Madrid. The Arabs were talking at Madrid conference in the light of the historical facts, international laws and political norms, added the paper.

On the same topic SAUDI GAZETTE said what ever the outcome of the Madrid conference in the Middle East, the event has brought into sharp focus some basic questions as to the role and credibility of the United Nations.

The Security Council's resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973 have though formed according to the Arabs' understanding at least, the bases of Madrid talks, it is more ironical than surprising that the United Nations of course, on the insistence of Israel, has been confined to a limited role as a silent observer.

World Unconvinced by Israel

PM0611122491 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 1 Nov 91 p 9

[Editorial: "Bankruptcy of Zionist Logic Was First Arab Gain"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir's speech at the Madrid peace conference yesterday did not bring any new surprises different from the distorted Israeli logic based on distorted facts and presentation of the aggressive, expansionist Israeli entity to the world as a weak, helpless entity surrounded by Arab forces many times its size bent on annihilating it.

While repeating the same propagandist Zionist logic used since the creation of Israel, Shamir, in his historic speech, failed to grasp the world's realities and developments and failed to realize that the world today is not the same world as scores of years ago when Israel lived on falsehood, lies, the distortion of facts, and the exploitation of the Jewish guilt complex in the European mentality.

The world today is fully aware of the truth about Israeli policies. It does not, and will not, believe that Israel is a weak, isolated island in an Arab ocean which rejects it and seeks to eliminate it.

The world will not believe Shamir's claims about Israel's quest for peace and the Arab rejection of peace, because the world that he addressed has seen the delegations representing the entire Arab world calling for peace, offering peace, and providing all the prerequisites for a just and lasting peace in the region. Shamir himself was forced to go to the conference, having failed in all his attempts to evade peace.

The world realizes that the people who are suffering and facing tragedy are not the Jewish people, whose suffering is nothing more than the repeated and magnified claims about Nazi infernos, but the Palestinian people, who have been denied their legitimate rights and who are seen by the world through the media, which portray stone-throwing children crushed by massive Israeli weapons obtained from the world under the false claim of weakness and helplessness.

The world addressed by Shamir realizes that peace cannot be established and sustained on the basis of his call for a recognition of Israel and for reconciliation and cooperation without the restoration of Arabs rights. Peace to the whole world is a just peace that does not violate UN resolutions and that abides by international legitimacy and grants land in exchange for peace.

The world addressed by Shamir yesterday is not the world addressed by Ben-Gurion, Weizmann, or even Begin. It is a new world which recognizes that it is the Palestinian people's rights and the occupied Arab territories—not Shamir's claim of Arab hostility to Israel—that constitute the crux of the matter.

Shamir's speech, which was devoid of any argument, grounds, or logic acceptable to the world, was the first major evidence of the soundness of the line pursued by the Arab side in accepting peace. The Arabs have deprived Israel of all pretexts and excuses. Shamir was bankrupt and in a dilemma. He could find nothing to help him except the repetition of an exposed and overstated logic, going as far as to cite certain individual statements and commando operations to back up his failed logic which nobody would support.

While reflecting continued Israeli intransigence, Shamir's speech yesterday also confirmed the extent of the gains achieved by the Arabs at the international political and informational levels by his attendance at the peace conference. That will force Israel to heed the voice of just peace based on rights and law and acceptable to the world.

Additional Press Comment

LD0611133391 Riyadh SPA in English 1241 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Nov 6, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented today editorially on the importance of King Fahd's extempore speech before a Kuwaiti delegation and the outcome of the international peace conference and bilateral meetings held between the Israelis and the Arabs in the Spanish capital. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the peace conference which was held last week in Madrid, the Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said all concerned parties should genuinely work to bring about peace in the Middle East region. The Arab parties are now taking the proper stand and holding high the banner of peace, the paper said.

Criticizing the intransigence and maneuvers of Israel, the daily said it will not be logical for the U.S. to sacrifice with its international prestige for the sake of Israel.

On the same topic, the Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH said Israel would no longer insist on holding bilateral relations with the Arabs inside or outside the Middle East. Israel cannot escape the international pressures to realize peace in line with the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council.

AL-RIYADH said it was expected that the peace process would be faced with many obstacles. Despite the expected obstacles, it said there is no way out but to go ahead on the path of peace. The paper said several procedures are now taking place behind the curtains and that direct participation of a number of countries will facilitate the peace process. Reiterating the keenness of the Arabs in bringing about just and lasting peace in the region, the daily said the Syrian delegation at Madrid conference which faced severe attack from the Israeli side is still determined to go ahead in the path of peace.

Islamic Opposition Leader Urges Army Coup

NC0711211791 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, Nov 7 (AFP)—An Iraqi Islamic opposition leader Thursday called on the army to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, saying Husayn's firing of his defense minister indicated he feared a coup. Damascus-based Ayatollah Muhammad Taqyi Mudarissi, head of the Islamic Action Organization [IAO], called for a "courageous uprising to finish with the head of the troubles that is Saddam Husayn".

Shaykh Mudarissi issued the appeal in a statement released by his office here after Husayn Kamil Hasan was fired from his post as defense minister and replaced by Interior Minister Ahmad Hasan al-Majid.

The head of the IAO, one of the main Iraqi Islamic opposition groups, suggested that "the forced resignation of Mr. Hasan, one of Saddam's closest men, reflects the latter's fear of a coup." He added: "Mr. Majid's nomination to the defense ministry post also proves that Saddam Husayn wants to carry out new executions in the ranks of the armed forces, because Mr. Majid is the uncontested man of repression."

Referring to the southern Shiite city of Karbala', Shaykh Mudarissi said that 7,000 people were arrested there last month as part of a campaign to seek out those involved in anti-government activities. Karbala' has been in a state of siege for at least two weeks, he said.

Kurdish Delegation in Baghdad To Discuss Security

JN0811093891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—INA learned that a delegation representing the front of Kurdish parties, led by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman and comprising Jawhar Namiq, Nazim 'Umar, and Sa'd 'Abdallah, arrived in Baghdad.

INA also learned that the representatives of the Kurdish parties will discuss security, stability, and the performance of departments in the Kurdistan autonomous region.

Kurds Reportedly Inflict Large Losses on Army

NC0711133791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has said that Kurdish fighters confronted the advance of the defeated tyrant's forces on the [words indistinct] road the day before yesterday, and that a large number of the tyrant's soldiers were killed or wounded.

Talabani added that five armed Kurds were killed and 15 others wounded during the six-hour battle with two divisions of the tyrant's forces, which were attempting to advance north on the [words indistinct] road.

It should be recalled that the tyrant's forces recently withdrew from the area, which is almost 30 km east of Karkuk.

In an interview with REUTER and [words indistinct] yesterday, Talabani said that gunmen from seven of the eight allied [word indistinct] have inflicted heavy losses on the ranks of the tyrant's forces [words indistinct].

Siege Tightened in South

NC0711174291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The forces of the defeated tyrant tightened their siege on the towns, villages, and marshlands in southern Iraq. This came in a report released yesterday by the Documentary Center for Human Rights in Iraq, citing reliable sources. The sources said that the tyrant's forces, which the regime dispatched to the marshlands, were deployed in large numbers on the sandbagged defenses near al-Madinah, [placename indistinct], (al-Masabb), (al-Misbah), and (al-Khadra).

The sources added that helicopters are flying missions to strike at the inhabited areas in the marshlands and to reconnoiter the region in preparation for an all-out attack that is expected against the peaceful inhabitants.

The sources said that the Saddamist authorities imposed an 1800 to 0600 curfew in the area.

In response to the violations the tyrant forces are committing against the peaceful inhabitants of the marshlands, a group of revolutionaries attacked the 423d Brigade of the 11th Division with various weapons. Opposition sources said that the heroic encounter led to the death of 11 servicemen, including five officers, and many wounded. The sources noted that the brigade is using every possible means to tighten the siege on the area and prevent the arrival of foodstuffs there, which has resulted in food shortages in (al-Mukhtarah) and nearby villages.

In another development, the forces of the defeated tyrant have waged a large-scale detention campaign in the southern governorates of Iraq. This came in a report by the Documentary Center for Human Rights in Iraq, citing well-informed sources. The sources said that the defeated regime is waging this campaign under the slogan Discipline Week. Various repressive organs of the regime, as well as elements of the ruling party, are taking part in the criminal campaign. The sources said that thousands of young men in the cities, suburbs, and villages of the Governorates of al-Basrah, al- 'Amarah, and al-Nasiriyah have been rounded up and that many of them have been transported to [words indistinct] in Baghdad. The sources said that one of the (?architects) of this criminal campaign is the criminal Salah-al-Din [not further identified].

Seminar on Ba'th Party Statement Concludes

JN0711192991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The intellectual dialogue seminar on the major points contained in the political statement issued by the 10th regional congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Congress of Jihad and Reconstruction, concluded its discussions this evening.

The fourth and final session of seminar was entitled: "Our Jihad in the Mother of Battles and the Arab Position." [passage omitted]

Gulf Regimes Said 'Sabotaging' Arab Security

JN0711143591 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov.7, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today accused the ruling regimes in the Arab Gulf of investing and wasting oil proceeds through channels bent on sabotaging the Arab nation's national security, clearing the way by that for the imperialist and Zionist forces to master the Arab destiny.

The daily warned in an analysis that those regimes were not only squandering the nation's wealth, but they were also placing it at the disposal of its enemies everywhere.

It referred to a statement few days ago by a Kuwaiti official on the Kuwaiti ruler's intention to offer Washington 22 billion dollars in compensation of what it had spent during its war against Iraq, pointing out that such reckless behaviour by those rulers was expected, especially following the role they played in the aggression crime against Iraq.

The paper gave another example of those regimes' mishandling of the national riches, referring to their attempts to discuss means of financial and economic cooperation with Israel and efforts to lift the Arab boycott of Israel.

But it said that the gravest part of that conspiracy was the huge funds spent by Gulf rulers to incite Palestinian factions against each others.

Repaired Oil Pumping Station Inaugurated

JN0711150191 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—Staff of the Southern Oil Company of the Ministry of Oil have recently completed work to repair the giant 4th turbine pumping station (ps4) of the strategic oil pipeline. The station, one of the largest in the world, sustained almost total damage by allied bombing during the war, the Baghdad newspaper said here today.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, minister of oil, Mr Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said it is the first time that 100 per cent Iraqi staff manage to install and reactivate a giant turbine pumping station of a capacity of 5600 cubic metres per hour.

Director of the project Engineer Kazim Hurays told AL-THAWRAH daily that the station is one of four operating along the strategic line. It has a great significance because it pumps oil in two directions that is, from north to south and vice versa. The total capacity of the station can reach some 6800 cubic metres per hour if its two pumping units are reoperated.

Engineer Hurays said the station suffered severe damage in successive air raids during the war, adding that the rate of damage sustained by the two turbine pumping units reached some 100 per cent, while damage inflicted upon the two turbine generators ranged between 50 to 100 per cent.

Furthermore, air conditioning systems, water storage units and some of the station's building were also damaged, said the engineer.

He added that reconstruction work started on August 3, work to lift the debris of the two turbine pumping units 410 411 and their shelter lasted for one month.

The total cost of the project amounted to some 600,000 Iraqi dinars, said the engineer, adding that work was completed in a record time of 45 days instead of the scheduled period of three months.

In the meantime, work now is in progress to rebuild the 2nd pumping station, also damaged during the war, the station is expected to be reoperated on January 6.

Meanwhile, oil experts said Iraq's total production capacity of crude oil is expected to exceed six million barrels per day.

As a recent symposium held by the Ministry of Oil, experts asserted that Iraq's total production capacity is to reach some 6.5 million barrels per day during the 1990s, adding that this increase wi need a further development of Iraq's oil reserves.

The symposium also called for adopting appropriate measures and plans to benefit from gas that comes out during the production process in various industries.

It stressed the need for oil strategies that cope with the lack of financial resources and the economic blockade.

The symposium also called for an expansion in oil exploration in the western part of the country and the ultimate exploitation of small and medium size oilfields.

Speaking at the symposium, the oil minister called for speeding up oil exploration, saying that Iraq as a main oil state must endeavour to establish an advanced oil industry that matches its huge oil reserves.

The minister stressed the necessity of applying the most up-to-date methods during the different stages of oil industry from drilling, purification to marketing.

Earlier, the minister said his ministry is studying future projects of drilling and exploration.

At a recent press conference, the minister said Iraq's oil reserves which amount to some 100 billion barrels require a two-fold increase of its 3.2 million-barrel a day pre-war production capacity.

Four new wells have been drilled, and technicians are exploring some 61 wells in the southern and northern parts of the country, the minister said.

The oil minister went on to say that Iraq can now produce 1.6 million barrels per day, a figure which was expected to be reached by the end of the year, thanks to efforts of the ministry's staff.

Regarding the reconstruction drive, the minister said work is underway to rebuild damaged oil installations especially southern and northern oil facilities.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, the Ministry of Oil is exerting efforts to ensure the supply of gas needed to reactivate the southern and northern gas processing plants and petrochemical complex no. 1.

In the meantime, specialised teams of the ministry are working to prepare oil outlets in the southern part of the country, especially al-Bakr terminal, said the minister, adding that efforts are made to raise the production capacity of southern oil facilities by rebuilding oil terminals, pipelines and production units which have been damaged during the U.S.-led aggression and the Iraq-Iran war.

The minister said that with the help of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and Military Industrialization Commission, the Ministry of Oil has repaired damage sustained by al-Basrah oil refinery, restoring it to its pre-war capacity of some 70,000 barrels per day.

Al-Basrah oil installations had the lion's share of allied bombing that caused an almost complete suspension of work.

Oil pipelines, networks and storage depots sustained severe damage by allied bombardment that led to a total stoppage of a number of oil refineries and prodution units.

Oil production there is assessed to be very low, the northern facilities were less damaged during the war, but they apparently suffered some damage during acts of sabotage in the wake of the war.

Repair operations have been made possible by heavy drawdown on spare refining equipment, including frequent cannibalization operations.

Working teams of the ministry have managed to rebuild the 185- metre-high main tower of al-Basrah refinery. The tower was pierced by bombs, said the minister, adding that the rate of damage inflicted upon oil installations ranged from 10 to 100 per cent. The bombing caused a total destruction of the main production units, degassing and pumping stations.

Regarding Iraq's foreign oil policy, the minister referred to the embargo imposed on Iraq's oil exports, saying that the embargo represents an infringment upon Iraq's sovereignty.

Minister: Currency in Circulation 'Fully Covered'

JN0711203091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1957 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—Finance Minister Majid 'Abd-Ja'far asserted that Iraqi currency bills currently in circulation are issued in accordance with the law and that they are fully covered.

In an interview broadcast on Baghdad television tonight, the finance minister pointed out that Iraqi bills of the 25, 50, and 100-dinar denomination are issued in accordance with the law and are being circulated as usual in commercial and bank transactions.

He added that attempts to counterfeit Iraqi currency by certain groups who are known have been uncovered early and examined by security organs. He also noted the limited effect these attempts have on economic activity.

He explained, moreover, that banks will accept counterfeit bills from citizens, who do not know where the bills came from, and give them a receipt for the amounts until the banks can verify their authenticity and return the money.

Second 7 Nov Raid on 'Terrorist' Target Reported

TA0711183891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Air Force planes conducted a second raid on south Lebanon this evening, this time on a terrorist target in the 'Ayn al-Hulwa refugee camp. The target was a base of the Fatah-'Arafat terrorist organization. 'Ido Baum, our army affairs correspondent, points out that Air Force planes had attacked a Democratic Front target in the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp earlier this afternoon.

Shamir, Levi Meet Again on Netanyahu Assignment

TA0711184291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is moving to the Prime Minister's Office, will deal with information related to the peace process. He will not, however, have a role in political matters, as such. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this was agreed upon this evening in another meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his deputy, Foreign Minister David Levi. Our correspondent adds that the Foreign Ministry's information unit will not be subordinate—directly or indirectly—to Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu after he moves to the Prime Minister's Office.

Sharon Predicts Serious Pressure During Process

TA0711183991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The cornerstone for a new neighborhood in Kibbutz Sha'alvim on the border of the Green Line was laid this afternoon. Minister Ari'el Sharon spoke there about his fears concerning autonomy.

[Begin Sharon recording] Friend and foe have closed ranks against us in a bid to make us go back to the 1967 boundaries. This is not a process that will last years. It will be a short process, accompanied by serious pressure on Israel. Unfortunately, this pressure is coming both from outside and inside Israel. [end recording]

[At 1700 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew notes that Minister Sharon went on to say: "Autonomy, in fact, constitutes an additional Palestinian state, and Israel must resist it in the political process. So far, we have not displayed any resistance, and we have given in to pressure."]

Shamir Urged To Change Negotiating Style

TA0711121991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Nov 91 p B1

['Uzi Benziman commentary: "A Man for All Pens"]

[Text] So far, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been playing it rather well: He addresses and satisfies different audiences, with none of them ever pondering the meaning of the prime minister's remarks to the other. Thus, the Tehiya is staying in the government because Shamir has convinced it that it has no reason to quit. At the same time, the Arab countries are joining the negotiations process because Shamir's position has convinced them that they have no reason not to. Simultaneously, Shamir addresses world public opinion and creates the feeling that there is no reason to mistrust his remarks and the gospel of peace they include. The Israeli doves are attentive to Shamir's appeasing statements in Madrid and welcome them. In the same breath, Shamir signals the U.S. Administration that it can do business with him. These days, Shamir is a man for all pens.

The way Shamir is maneuvering is very pragmatic. This is what his predecessor, Menahem Begin, did when he conducted the peace negotiations with Egypt. Shamir will not carry the nation by storm toward peace; he will probably drag it there. His cautious and cunning character will be all the more evident as the process that started in Madrid progresses. It will be patchwork and not a masterly designed peace canopy. Shamir will make a concession here, give in on something there, insist on something else and then eventually back down. His temper dictates the nature of his negotiating method. It is to be assumed that we will witness a pattern of retail haggling. No euphoria will sweep the nation; perhaps the opposite: We will be left with the foul aftertaste of petty trade.

Shamir will naturally claim that this is the only way. Only through stubbornness, insistence on minute detail, and haggling over dotting every "i" and crossing every "t" will Israel's interests be secured. He will support his argument with evidence garnered from his moves so far: Were it not for his stubbornness, Israel would have come to the negotiations under inferior conditions. And who ever starts negotiations with sweeping moves anyway? Can anyone guarantee that a clear willingness to demonstrate generosity will secure a positive response from the other side?

It is not certain that this attitude can stand the test of reality. The framework of negotiations as presented in Madrid was, in fact, discussed between Israel and the United States a year ago, mainly by David Levi. Its details were concluded last March in the discussions Dan Meridor held with James Baker. It is not at all clear whether Israel has improved its position since. On the other hand, it is clear that Shamir's nay-saying contributed to the deterioration in U.S.-Israeli relations and significantly affected our status in the world.

Even those who agree that a country must not get rid of all its ammunition when approaching a political give-and-take may ask whether haggling over every detail, under all circumstances, in every context is a wise policy. Shamir must be made to realize the possibility that it is just this nit-picking and stubbornness on his part that could hamper his ability to address different audiences simultaneously. For example, one who declares to the whole world that Israel will in no way forgo its demand

that negotiations be held in the countries involved in the dispute will find it hard to sustain his credibility when he caves in and agrees to the bilateral discussions being moved elsewhere. A man who remembers at the last minute that he wants to head the Madrid delegation and, in doing so, insults his own foreign minister is burdening himself with an unnecessary facade.

Shamir's behavior before and during the Madrid conference indicates that he correctly understands the reality in which he has to steer the State of Israel. This understanding was probably acquired the hard way, through friction with U.S. international interests and the necessity of taking its will into consideration, and is not the result of an open-minded world view. Shamir has created the impression that he now understands Israel's total dependence on the moods prevailing at the White House, the vital importance of securing its ability to attract and properly absorb Soviet Jewry, and the impending danger of the Middle East turning nuclear. These three basic conceptions are enough to force any responsible Israeli leader into trying to reach a reconciliation with the Arab world and, primarily, into securing good understanding with the United States.

The prime minister must place himself at the head of the political process and lead it all the way, while defining to himself and to his subordinates the limits of their maneuverability in a way that will create the broadest national consensus possible. Naturally, there is a limited number of vital issues on which Israel's legitimate stand can be maintained. Shamir will now have to develop a keen sense for making choices and for distinguishing between primary and secondary issues, as well as a sense of timing, so that he can maneuver between the conflicting constraints he is under. If he goes out on a limb over secondary issues, he may find it hard to jump down without breaking the coalition's neck or causing a rift inside the nation.

Peres Dismisses Maxwell Involvement in Irangate

TA0711170691

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 7 November carries a 10-minute interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by anchor Dan Margalit on the late media tycoon Robert Maxwell. Noting that "Robert Maxwell's ties with Israel continue to cause a stir," especially after the interview yesterday by an Israeli reporter, Ya'el Lotan, on British television, in which she claimed that Shim'on Peres, while prime minister, convened the Association of Newspaper Editors "to prepare them for the upcoming disclosure of Mordekhay Vanunu, who was later found guilty of espionage and treason" for divulging Israel's nuclear secrets. Margalit notes that "a few days prior to that publication, another newspaper—evidently one belonging to the Maxwell media empire—reported that Vanunu is actually a liar." Margalit asks Peres about Maxwell's contribution to Israel in connection with the Vanunu case, and Peres says: "I have no knowledge about any assistance or any approach to Maxwell on this matter. I am totally amazed by this story. To the best of my knowledge, that lady is not a member of the association. How could she testify when she was never invited to that forum?"

Regarding allegations that Maxwell "was involved in arms deals with Iran, which inflated his bank account," Peres says: "God forbid. Look, the scope of legends and lies is unimaginable. The whole Iran issue was not done for money. To the extent that Israel, or I, was involved in Irangate—the only motivation for it was to assist the United States to obtain the release of its hostages." Peres explains that "the deal was of a very minor scope, where money could not play any role." Maxwell, therefore, could not have been involved: "Maxwell was a man who did everything on a grand scale; he was a great man. He was able to distinguish between small and big matters even easier than he could tell left from right. Indeed, he was involved in very positive acts."

Peres reports that Maxwell was involved in two matters that had to do with the Soviet Union and one that involved Israel. "With respect to the Soviet Union, he was among the group of Jews who enlisted in a bid to construct a Soviet-U.S.-Israeli aircraft." Maxwell, says Peres, "was greatly impressed by Gorbachev. They enjoyed what is known as personal chemistry, and he thought he could play a role—which he did." Thus, says Peres, he acted as go-between for Israel and the Soviet Union. The other issue that highly interested Maxwell, according to Peres, had to do with Gorbachev's request for approximately $20 billion to help tide the USSR over the winter. Maxwell was gripped by the prospects and discussed the matter with Peres, who was then finance minister. Peres agreed to offer agricultural produce valued at up to $1 billion on credit, to be repaid over a number of years.

Peres dismisses insinuations that the seemingly unnatural death of Maxwell, and that of 'Amiram Nir, the late antiterror adviser who perished mysteriously in a plane crash over South America, may be related to Irangate, saying that Maxwell was a cautious man who was aware that he was observed by the whole world. Peres added that he does not credit "all sorts of secret organizations with such a high degree of sophistication."

When Maxwell finally rediscovered his Jewish roots and got involved in Israel's economy, says Peres, he again "went into this in full swing, delving into it with the grand sweep and zeal that characterized all his life."

'Secret' Likud Poll on Politicians' Popularity

TA0811092491

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'IR in Hebrew on 8 November carries a 10,000-world article on pages 28, 29, and 30 by Gadi Blum entitled: "Where Is Arens and Where Is Beni Begin," on "a new and secret poll commissioned by senior Likud figures" with a "private company" "several weeks ago." The poll, "which has not

yet been completed," covers "a little more than two-thirds of the 3,250 Likud Central Committee members" and may not be published because those who leaked it "admit that the disclosure may almost automatically bring it to a halt." Furthermore, notes Blum, some Likud headquarters sources claim that it is "tendentious." The polling, conducted by telephone, began after Sharon had announced his candidacy for prime minister, Shamir had informed Levi of his decision to head the Israeli delegation to Madrid, and Beni Begin had also announced that he will compete for Shamir's seat. Blum therefore considers it "a barometer" of Central Committee moods and trends.

Given 15 names, the interviewees were asked to name the "most suitable new party candidates for the Knesset." They voted for Limor Livnat with more than 60 percent, followed by Yosi Ahime'ir, Shamir's aide. Blum notes that "it is usually thought that a popularity rating of between 40 and 45 percent guarantees a Knesset seat," making Livnat and Ahime'ir sure bets. They were followed, in descending order, by David Mena' [head of the Employment Service], Yisra'el Katz, and Mikha'el Ratzon—all of whom won more than 50 percent—and Yosi Peled [former commander of the Northern Command], Rahel Kramerman, Miryam Mazar, Dani Nave, and Gil Samsonov [the Likud spokesman].

Asked to name the party's candidate for prime minister if Shamir elects not to run again, and given the choice of Arens, Levi, Nisim, and Sharon, "Arens received a little over 60 percent, Levi only 13, Nisim 7, and Sharon 20." Blum notes that Shamir's decision to head the Madrid conference delegation did not improve Levi's rating "at all" and that his camp's weakness "was marked throughout the poll." Asked to offer another candidate's name, two featured prominently: Beni Begin and Binyamin Netanyahu. "This, it should be noted, came before Beni Begin announced his candidacy." The day after Begin's announcement, his rating "jumped upward substantially." During the following days, "he swept past everyone, including Arens," winning votes from all the camps, including from "many Liberals."

As for the performance ratings of deputy ministers and ministers, except for the four candidates for premiership, "Netanyahu easily glided into first place," followed by Moshe Qatzav, with David Magen "trailing close behind." Begin got fourth place, followed by Milo and Meridor running neck and neck for fifth place. Ehud Olmert "is on a steady decline," competing for the penultimate place with Deputy Defense Minister 'Ovadya 'Eli. Closing the list is Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat.

Islamic Jihad 'Terrorist' Details Mission

TA0711193591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Excerpts] An Islamic Jihad terrorist captured during an infiltration attempt from south Lebanon says he had intended to kill Israeli soldiers and civilians in accordance with Islamic rulings. He told his story at a news conference in Tel Aviv this afternoon. This report from Alan Ben-'Ami:

Fahdi Muhammad al-Jazzar, aged 20, was born in a suburb of Beirut. [passage omitted] The terrorist said he was trained in the use of automatic weapons and small arms at a base among the hills in the al-Biqa' Valley. The area is under Syrian control, although the training camp was located away from civilian villages or Syrian camps. His instructors, he said, belong to Hizballah.

After three weeks of training, al-Jazzar and his two comrades went to the Burj al-Barajinah camp in the southern suburbs of Beirut. At the end of last month they were sent south, to the Israeli border. They cut their way through the border fence, but then one of them stepped on a mine and was killed. The other two retreated back from the mine field, and an Israeli patrol appeared. After an exchange of fire in which al-Jazzar was wounded and his companions killed, the bearded terrorist was taken prisoner. [passage omitted]

Palestinians, Israeli Leftists Resume Cooperation

TA0711193391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned that some activists in Israeli left-wing parties, as well as Peace Now representatives, last week held intensive consultations with a number of Palestinian figures in the territories with the aim of organizing joint peaceful activities in Palestinian and Israeli streets in light of the convocation of the peace conference in Madrid. Our correspondent notes that this cooperation had ceased for a long time in the wake of the Palestinians' sympathetic stance toward Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Over 18 Percent of Children Under Poverty Line

TA0611142691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p 2

[By Yisra'el Tomer]

[Text] Approximately 118,000 Israeli families now live under the poverty line, including 196,300 children who constitute 18.6 percent of all children in Israel.

Responding to a question by Knesset member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Shmu'el Halpert, deputy labor and social affairs minister in charge of national insurance affairs, said that an average family of four with a monthly gross income of under 1,563 shekels was to be considered poor. According to the accepted calculation, this puts the poverty line at 50 percent of the average national income while configuring the number of family members. Approximately 92,000 of the poor families receive some sort of financial support from National Insurance.

King Husayn Receives Joint Delegation

JN0711163091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] At noon today at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty King Husayn received, in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Palestinian Advisory Council to the Madrid Middle East peace conference.

At the outset of the meeting, the king praised the outstanding performance of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the achievements of this performance on the international level, in terms of admiration and support for Palestinian and Arab rights.

The king also addressed the importance of strengthening coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations in the joint delegation, and preparing for the next stage, both on the level of bilateral or multilateral talks.

King Husayn and members of the joint delegation and the Palestinian Advisory Council exchanged opinions on issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the king's political adviser and military secretary, and the information minister.

'Arafat Explains Position to PNC Members

JN0711082191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Nov 91 p 26

[Text] Amman—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat met at the guest palace last night with the 85 members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] living in Jordan.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y after the 50-minute meeting, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said 'Arafat stressed to the audience that the Palestinian leadership is intent on realizing all Palestinian ambitions concerning the right to self-determination, and that it refuses to relinquish any right.

He said President 'Arafat underscored the full coordination and understanding between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, and within the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added: The Palestinian delegation represents all the Palestinian people, and it is eager to shoulder the national task of realizing the rights of the Palestinian people.

He said 'Arafat explained to the PNC members that the peace conference is still in its early stages. So far, 'Arafat explained, we have made media gains, but we do not know how the adversary's positions will develop after we make the next steps, especially concerning Jerusalem, settlements, immigration, and indeed any other topic.

The PNC speaker said: President 'Arafat said that Palestinian-Jordanian relations are very good, that coordination is continuing, and that there is full understanding. We and the Jordanians are willing to coordinate with all Arab sides during the coming peace talks, as happened in Madrid.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added: Brother 'Arafat asserted that the intifadah is continuing, throwing a stone with one hand and holding the olive branch with the other. The Palestinian people want peace and restoration of their lands and sanctities, which cannot be abandoned.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said 'Arafat underscored Palestinian national unity and urged Palestinians not to listen to rumors that create barriers between brothers. He called on Hamas to fight the Israeli enemy, saying that no one is preventing the movement from doing so.

According to Palestinian parliamentarians who attended the meeting, president 'Arafat revealed a surprise; namely, that the Palestinian delegation presented a working paper to the Israeli delegation. Because the Israeli delegation did not present one, the Palestinian paper will be dealt with in the second round of the talks.

The Palestinian parliamentarians did not disclose the contents of the Palestinian working paper, but said it indicates the shrewdness of the Palestinian negotiator.

They said 'Arafat may call the PLO Central Council into session later, but he did not set a date or give the reasons for such a meeting.

They said the Palestinian president threatened all those who tamper with national unity and stressed that the Palestinian people will not stand idly by before the enemies of their national unity.

*King Husayn on Peace Process, Settlements

92AE0045A London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Oct 91 p 4

[Interview With King Husayn of Jordan by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan on Monday, 28 October 1991, at Royal Court in Amman; "In Comprehensive Interview With AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, King Husayn Says: 'No Meaning for Peace Process With Continued Settlement; Arab Sovereignty Over Jerusalem Is Red Line; Entry of Jordanian Trucks to Saudi Arabia Is Beginning of Relaxation; I Don't Plan on Performing Pilgrimage Soon; At Arab Summit in Baghdad, I Seriously Considered Retiring From Political Life, But Subsequent Developments Made Such Decision Look as If It Were Evasion of Responsibility'"]

[Text] These days, the visitor to Amman finds it a different capital that is dominated by moments of mysterious waiting, and that reflects an anxious calm which has no clear features. People walk in the streets burdened with questions and anticipation. The streets are beautiful and clean, and the buildings are imposing and reflect wise wealth and cultural splendor. Even the almost

lower-class quarters, to which I was able to make a quick visit, do not differ greatly from Amman's western quarters in standing at the gates of the unknown.

In the Jordanian capital, the countdown for the Madrid peace conference began two weeks before the curtain was raised on the major historic event. The Plaza Hotel lobbies were most active and least confidential because of the hordes of local and foreign journalists who had come from everywhere to sniff out news of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and to release test balloons in order to measure the reactions of both sides to Shamir's intransigent statements, and to the selection of Rubinstein and the rest of the intransigent group to the membership of the Israeli negotiating delegation.

The occupied territories delegation, with both its advisory and its negotiating parts, has settled at the aforementioned hotel. This delegation was received by a large number of PLO Executive Committee members, by dozens of officials, by people who claim to be official and important, and by curious people.

The delegation is a strange mixture that truly reflects the conditions in the occupied territories. Here is a businessman who has jumped into the last car of the delegation entourage wearing a most splendid necktie and a suit tailored in the latest fashion, and there is that comer from a refugee camp wearing a suit that belongs to a fashion popular in the Third World 15 years ago, but that does not fail to reflect the stalwart struggler's cleanliness, sincerity, and pride.

The eyes are anxious, the responsibility is great, and the unknown abounds with surprises. Nobody can offer a decisive answer, even though all agree that this is an inevitable step. The alternatives are not only nonexistent, but whatever alternatives exist are impractical. Some philosophize issues in a practical manner, enlisting the help of some historical phrases and events. Others make issues as simple as the good earth and say: The leadership has chosen us to wage this ferocious war. We support it and we will lose nothing if we go, whereas we may lose a lot if we don't go. Our history abounds with imprisonment, detention, and torture, and we will not be outbid.

The Jordanian press also suffers from the this period of waiting and unclear vision. It pursues the event eagerly and tries, through its writers—and many they are—to follow the big event and analyze it. [The Jordanian newspaper] AL-RAY's pages, abounding with columns, are a strange mixture that fully and uniquely reflects the manifest and hidden workings of political life. The "star" writers, who are accustomed to attracting readers with fiery articles full of rejectionist stances and zealous pan-Arabism and nationalism, have found it difficult to persist in the same line for numerous reasons, including the fact that both sides of the coin, i.e., the government and the PLO, are going to the conference. Moreover, a broad sector of the people is not opposed to going to Madrid, even though it is not certain of the outcome. Some of these writers have tried to be rational, to wear the adviser's turban, and to warn of the dangers, whereas others have found in Shamir's intransigence the saving opportunity for their continued violent criticism of Israel, considering that it is the only party left that one is still permitted to revile openly, now that the other targets of criticism have evaporated with the emergence of stirrings of Arab solidarity and with the enhanced chances of healing the Arab ranks that were torn apart in the second Gulf war.

The observer notices that the doors have not been completely shut in the face of opposition to the Madrid conference. The press publishes, without exaggeration, advertisements about speech rallies by the conventional Arab rejectionist groups, beginning with the traditionalists, conventional Ba'thists, and neo-Ba'thists, and ending with revolutionary pan-Arabists. What is more, one advertisement published by the press gathers in one political rally political tendencies from the extreme traditionalist right to the extreme revolutionary left—tendencies that are impossible to gather under the same roof under the most democratic conditions!

Another interesting thing is that the popular press, not to mention the instigatory press—which is partly controlled by young parties and partly by political adventurers, status and power seekers, and even seekers of quick profit, both political and material—this press, which flourished during the greater confrontation between Arab dignity and U.S. imperialism in the Gulf war has become more cautious and polite in dealing with developments. Its opposition tone has become less strident. Some sly people interpret this extreme politeness as being due to objective changes, one of which is the "responsible censorship" by the Ministry of Information in this critical circumstance. Meanwhile, one paper's editor-in-chief has said: "If Moscow has bent before the storm, then what can our paper do, keeping in mind that it has difficulty earning enough to print its editions and to preserve its irregular publication?" We will content ourselves with this much explanation. A visitor has his bounds and a guest has his respect. Postponed convocation of the Jordanian House of Representatives (parliament) has resulted in an increased demand for speakers and lecturers, such as Layth al-Shubaylat, to speak under numerous domes, other than that of the parliament. Podiums are not difficult for the Muslim Brotherhood to get. Mosques are always open and the public is available five times a day. But it has been noticed that some of the Brotherhood's figures, such as Shaykh Abu-Zant, are quieter these days and that the speeches are more moderate. Perhaps one of the reasons is the fact that many of them went to the conference recently held in Tehran to support the Palestinian issue. There are people who speak of other reasons, most significant of which are the circumstances engulfing the trials of the "Muhammad faction." Only God knows.

In this climate, and amidst the preparations being made for the delegation's departure to Madrid, I arrived in the Jordanian capital to interview King Husayn of Jordan.

The interview with his majesty the king was supposed to be conducted on Thursday, but was then postponed till Sunday morning. However, the accelerating tempo of political movement with the delegation's approaching departure for Madrid just about prevented the interview. Even when an appointment was made, with difficulty, for Monday morning, it had to be delayed until afternoon because the Jordanian monarch was preoccupied with seeing off the delegation before its departure for the Spanish capital aboard a private plane.

On the way to the royal court, the escort accompanying me—a very enthusiastic man in his early youth—asked me about my expectations of the conference and of its outcome. I was unable to offer a decisive answer that would give the impression of frank optimism. It seems that the escort had the same doubts in his mind. The enemy is evasive and our experiences with him are bitter. But he surprised me when he said that he wished that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was heading a unified Arab delegation to the Madrid conference. because he, in the escort's opinion, is the fittest to confront Shamir and the United States. This escort thus stirred in me the pains of a war that could have changed the region's map if its outcome had been different, or if it hadn't occurred in the first place.

After a short wait, I was escorted to meet the Jordanian monarch. He wore a blue suit. He hastened to apologize for the delay of the appointment. Relaxed and smiling, at the outset of the interview he expressed his admiration for the objectivity of AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI and for its accurate news reporting.

During the 40-minute interview, his majesty smoked three low-nicotine cigarettes. I didn't stop asking questions until Khalid Mahadin, his majesty's press adviser, began to look at his watch from time to time. I then realized that I had to stop, gather my papers, and leave, bidding them farewell. The interview was not interrupted except for changing tape sides in the tape recorder. The telephone did not ring and no official or chamberlain came in with a piece of paper in his hand. Following is the text of the interview:

['Atwan] Your majesty, only two days remain until the peace conference is convened in Madrid. Can you sum up for us your feelings in this historic moment?

[Husayn] It is a truly historic moment. My feeling is a combination of several things at the same time. At this time, in which the world is inclined to solve all problems on the basis that this planet has become too small to allow any explosive issue, such as our issue, to pose a threat to its movement toward peace, our cause is a just and strong cause and the circumstances are now ripe for it to get the attention it merits and to be dealt with fairly.

I hope that the joint delegation will succeed in performing its duty and I believe that there is a very broad base in Palestine, Jordan, and the Arab world that supports and backs up the delegation's mission.

If there is any pain, it is all these many years and the numerous opportunities wasted during these years. Perhaps there is still something of which we are proud. We are proud that we have reached a level of awareness that makes it a must for us, as Jordanians and Palestinians, to shoulder our responsibilities directly. Of course, this awareness has emanated from our prolonged hardship and our extreme suffering in this part of the world.

What is painful is that a vision touching a lot of what we have been expecting and what we have been working for, such as the greater Arab homeland, has perhaps been broken. As a Hashimite, I, for example, began my [political] life carrying, and I still carry in my heart and my mind, the aspirations that have visited all of us—aspirations that the greater homeland would be in a condition different from its present condition. However, we have great hope that we, as Palestinians and Jordanians, will be able to offer an alternative or provide a good example for the brothers in the Arab homeland to emulate, God willing. I am fully confident that in this difficult circumstance, things will improve and will follow a normal course. There are numerous analogies in the mind of nations that have succeeded in accomplishing their aspirations. Hope spurs me to believe that our nation will accomplish what the Europeans have accomplished in eliminating all problems and disputes; achieving integration, cooperation, and trust; and employing all human and material resources to serve future generations. Hope spurs me to believe that our nation and the Arab people everywhere will achieve their aspirations through the leaders' awareness of these facts and through our taking advantage of the lessons and conditions that have recently developed to change, alter, and develop in the direction of building a strong structure.

['Atwan] You have just returned from seeing off the joint delegation. Have you given the delegation leadership and members any special advice while they are on their way to Madrid?

[Husayn] Absolutely not.

['Atwan] No advice to be patient and to remain steadfast?

[Husayn] The process will be lengthy and hard, and it is not expected to be otherwise. This is why it truly requires patience and self-restraint. Moreover, the citizen should expect no quick solutions. This is the first meeting of its kind in an attempt to tear down a high wall that has been erected over a very long period of time and which has its causes and bases. This is the first meeting held to deal with such a sensitive issue.

['Atwan] Do you think that the Arab Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has enough Arab support to shoulder this serious responsibility?

[Husayn] If we view the issue from a different angle, I wish that Arab top-level meetings had taken place before

this movement. Regrettably, this did not happen. We hope that the coming days will witness movement to revive Arab solidarity.

['Atwan] Your majesty has always urged flexibility in order to rescue whatever part of the land can be rescued from the ghoul of settlement. Do you believe that going to Madrid will accomplish this objective, keeping in mind that little of the land is left?

[Husayn] If we didn't hold this belief, we wouldn't have moved. But hope in God is great.

['Atwan] The self-rule negotiations will last a year, at least. Do you believe that they will be fruitful if the settlement activity continues at its current fast pace?

[Husayn] The settlement issue is a fundamental issue. It is my belief that any continuation of settlement activity will be a reason that could pose a threat to the process from the outset. It is unreasonable to have a discussion on the status of occupied territories when these territories continue to be devoured through the creation of new settlements. The world says that these settlements are an obstacle to peace. If we are discussing the establishment of peace, then we shouldn't erect additional obstacles by accepting more settlements. I believe that settlement activity will be halted with the start of the negotiation process.

['Atwan] Is there agreement between the Arab parties going to Madrid to adopt a united position on the issue of continued settlement activity?

[Husayn] I cannot answer this question.

['Atwan] In your latest television interview, you have warned that collapse of the peace process in Madrid will lead to serious ramifications for the region. Your majesty, can you give us your vision of this serious condition?

[Husayn] The hardship of the brothers and the kinsmen in the occupied territories reached the level which resulted in the intifadah. The hardship here in Jordan is great, by virtue of the fact that Jordan is the closest to the kinsmen in Palestine and is the recipient of all the negative consequences of what has afflicted our kinsmen and brothers. The condition in the Arab homeland and everywhere is inclined toward radicalism. There are parties in Israel and in the Arab world that have certain aspirations. If the peace process fails, the consequences will be radicalism, eruption, and a lack of stability that poses a threat not only to the parties concerned, but to the entire world. If we consider the real situation and the options available, then either issues are solved fairly and rationally, with people thus given the feeling that there is something that must be preserved, i.e., peace based on justice; or else the consequence will be very grave.

As for security in any country, it doesn't rely on accumulation of weapons. Weapons cannot protect people and the consequences of using weapons are grave to all mankind. Weapons have developed beyond their old conventional scope. Consequently, numbers are of no significance in comparison to the quality and generation of these weapons. Added to this is the fact that the dimensions of death and destruction have become great, thus resulting in greater grief and greater rancors. If the world is seriously inclined to solve these tension-causing issues, then this will lead to stability. Governments can then turn to man's needs, instead of focusing on military needs.

Another aspect of the picture in our region has also changed. Previously, Israel considered itself an advance vanguard in this region to protect the interests of a certain camp versus another camp. But this other camp no longer exists, and I believe that Israel's position has changed in the view of others. Therefore, these elements have an absolute influence on the region's future and the shape of the solution.

['Atwan] Your Majesty, let us return to Madrid. Are there limits to the patience of the Arab delegations to the conference?

[Husayn] I believe that there are limits. If there is hope, then we have to be patient, deal with the real situation, and try. But if this process fails, and I hope to God that it will not, then it will be the first time in which we, meaning all the [Arab] parties concerned, will not be responsible or accountable for this failure. I am casting no doubt on our position in the past phases. It was a normal position, because our cause is just and strong. The hardship and the tragedies that we have experienced are the result of crimes and events which took place outside this region. But now we must learn how to address this world and deal with it.

['Atwan] Some Western sources report that Jordan's responsibilities will increase in the coming phase, as the date of establishing the confederal union grows closer. Do you, your majesty, see in this a positive or a negative sign?

[Husayn] I believe that solidarity and cohesion in the family to which we belong evoke pride. When I address the Jordanians, I address all of them, regardless of their origins. Perhaps this is the only thing left to us that embodies our aspirations and the objectives of the greater Arab revolution.

['Atwan] Do you expect Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to visit Amman at the start of the peace conference in order to continue the coordination process?

[Husayn] Yes, I expect President 'Arafat to visit us at any time so that we can discuss all matters and issues.

['Atwan] In your address to the latest national conference, you talked of having considered retiring. Can you give us more details on this and the reasons that motivated you to consider such a thing?

[Husayn] Such ideas did occur to me during the Arab summit in Baghdad. You perhaps noticed that, in my speech there, I abandoned diplomacy and spoke frankly, because I felt that things were not moving in the right

direction, insofar as one's aspirations for this nation and for future generations are concerned. Perhaps there is a justification for such a decision after 40 years of service in these difficult circumstances. But then matters developed in such a way that one found that any thinking in this direction in this phase means evading responsibility, God forbid. Our method in this country must continue, i.e., we must continue to address the people directly and must carry on with developing what we started with the national charter and then with political pluralism. Thus, the decisions on issues will not be individualistic decisions or decisions by one person, but the outcome of interaction and knowledge by all. So this is our fate. We will continue to bear it, and may God help us.

['Atwan] Your majesty, Israel has demanded $10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States to settle Soviet Jews. Do you, as a joint delegation, plan to make a similar demand in order to confront the difficulties emanating from the repatriation of many Palestinians and Jordanians from the Gulf?

[Husayn] Nearly 1.3 million people passed through Jordan during the Gulf crisis and nearly 300,000 of our kinsmen in the Gulf have returned to us so far. Some of them lived for three generations in the areas in which they were present, and they helped develop those areas and accomplish all that has been accomplished there. If we compare figures, we find that Israel has demanded $10 billion to settle 300,000 people. The objective is for the majority of these people to be settled in the occupied territories. This figure equals the size of the debts Jordan has incurred as a result of the well-known failure of those who had pledged to aid it in confronting this danger. Jordan is the other face of Israel. Israel cannot survive on its own or with its intrinsic resources. It is subsidized. We receive the negative consequences of every phase of this tragedy that we have experienced in recent years, but without the aid to enable us to deal with the real situation appropriately, keeping in mind that we appreciate and thank all our brothers who have supported us, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has completely met its commitments. In any case, it is 300,000 versus 300,000. But a sum of $10 billion is allotted for the 300,000 immigrants, whereas we have incurred the same amount in debts in order to develop our armed forces and to accomplish the renaissance which has to be accomplished so that we can face the challenge. Originally, we requested this sum on the grounds that it would be delivered according to promises made by our kinsmen. But the Iraq-Iran war may have influenced the fulfillment of those promises. This is what has happened.

['Atwan] The future of Jerusalem is one of the red lines in the Madrid conference. How do you envision dealing with this issue in light of the Israeli arrogance?

[Husayn] Jerusalem is definitely one of the red lines. When speaking of Jerusalem, we speak of the Arab Jerusalem that was occupied in the 1967 war. But if the question is a question of Jerusalem as a holy city, then this is a different issue.

We spoke sometime ago and said frankly that, if it were not for Jordan's performance in 1948 and 1949, this would not be the issue we would be dealing with now in connection with the West Bank, considering that it was united with the East Bank. But the first decision made by the joint parliamentary assembly was to state that this was a trust until the issue could be resolved.

As for Jerusalem, it is regrettable that no Arab or foreign party, excluding Britain and Pakistan, supported the view that this [unification] was a legal act. They all supported internationalization of Jerusalem.

Israel now calls Jerusalem the greater Jerusalem, i.e., nearly one-fifth the territory of the occupied West Bank. Settlements are one of the issues that we will confront within days because the world supports us and acknowledges only our position regarding the pre-1967 Jerusalem. The world doesn't acknowledge any Israeli measures connected with Jerusalem. The status of Jerusalem is of absolute importance, not only to us, but also to all the Arabs, Muslims, and peoples of the world.

When Resolution 242 was issued, the discussion dealt with Jerusalem as territory occupied by Israel and subject to all that is applicable to the Arab territories occupied at that time. Regarding the truce line that was surpassed in 1967, there was a possibility of making some modifications to it, considering that it was a truce line established with the approval of both parties.

There is, moreover, the status of Jerusalem. The city must be made a symbol of peace among followers of the three divine religions. But then again, which Jerusalem are we talking about? We are talking about the Jerusalem that encompasses the holy places and that was occupied in 1967. Fundamentally, the Israeli side alleges that Jews were denied access to the Wailing Wall prior to the occupation. But this had been agreed to in the truce agreement, which stipulated that this would be the case if the Israelis failed to fulfill numerous provisions, including the right of Christian Arabs to have access to Nazareth and to a number of other holy places.

['Atwan] I have noticed during my presence in Amman that Jordanian trucks have resumed their pre-Gulf-war activity of transporting goods to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Is this a sign of relaxation in the relations and could other steps follow?

[Husayn] There is no doubt that we have welcomed this step. I believe that affairs in this regard have begun to return to normal. God willing, this will be a prelude for meetings with our brothers there and in any part of the Arab homeland so that we could disperse the gloomy darkness that has affected our relations negatively due to failure to understand the true nature of some issues and positions. We are taking steps to overcome the situation in which we find ourselves now.

['Atwan] Your Majesty, are there preparations for meetings such as the ones you are talking about?

[Husayn] We are resolved to proceed in this direction. God willing, we will find a response. By the way, this is nothing new. It is an ongoing resolve.

['Atwan] Do we understand from this that you will perform the minor pilgrimage soon?

[Husayn] I hope that I will have the opportunity to perform the minor pilgrimage soon. But there is no plan at this particular time.

['Atwan] Jordanian-Egyptian relations continue to experience a degree of estrangement. The expected rapprochement has not developed between the two countries, even though they are both going to the peace conference. Why?

[Husayn] I cannot find the proper explanation for this. But as I have already said, meetings among top-level Arab officials will lead to dealing with these issues. They may be faulting us for some positions and we may be faulting them for some. On the other hand, the fact is that in a most difficult phase, we served a certain objective out of conviction, namely the objective of reuniting the Arab world and Egypt—with its distinguished position in this world—after prolonged estrangement. Perhaps we played a major role in this regard. We did what we could when the opportunity became available. We are not ashamed of our positions, because they have always sought to serve the interest of the Arab nation in its entirety.

['Atwan] Have you been surprised by the Egyptian Government's reaction to the "White Book?"

[Husayn] I find no explanation for their reaction to publication of the "White Book" which contains memoirs, lectures, and the development of affairs from our viewpoint. We believe that this is the full picture of what has happened, of the hardship we are experiencing, and of the consequences of what has happened. There are numerous things which I find to be vague and for which I find no explanation. But time surely will. The "White Book" offers bare details to the Arab citizen who is interested in this issue. We have found that from 1948 and onward, numerous lies have been told against this country. All we have said is that our cause is just and well-known, that history must be recorded accurately, and that we have to review and reexamine some issues. I am not trying to slight anybody's effort here or to offend anybody. But to serve the generations that will follow us, we have to shoulder our responsibility and provide an accurate summary of events that happened not long ago. Perhaps this is the first time in which I have tried to record the position immediately and accurately so that it could not be distorted and forgotten.

['Atwan] How would you characterize your current relationship with Iraq?

[Husayn] Our relationship with Iraq is old. It is a relationship of anxiety, compassion, fear, and pain for the Iraqi people's suffering.

['Atwan] It is whispered in Jordan that it is likely that the democratic process will be frozen because of the convocation of the peace conference. What is your majesty's comment on this?

[Husayn] The peace process in Jordan continues and persists. We have chosen this path and we will follow it. Of course, the latest developments have outpaced the program we have been following. This is what made me address the people via the national conference that was held recently. Naturally, the charter was supposed to lead to incentives in our life, to political pluralism, and to holding parliamentary elections on this basis. But in light of the accelerating developments, we have turned to all members of the Jordanian family to address them directly. We hope to carry on with our effort. We believe that continued democracy in Jordan is a great duty.

American University Explosion Kills One

NC0811093691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Rescue teams have lifted Munir Salihah out of the rubble of the building destroyed in the explosion at the American University this morning. He was taken to the American University hospital suffering from injuries.

Meanwhile, the explosives expert of the Internal Security Forces is still trying to determine the cause of the explosion and whether it resulted from a boobytrapped car or other means. Civil defense sources said the blast killed one person and injured six others; the injured people have been taken to the American University hospital.

Car Bomb Reportedly Caused Blast

NC0811104691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Brigadier General Muhammad al-Ayyubi, head of the public relations department of the Internal Security Forces, has clarified that the explosion at the American University at 0345 today was caused by a boobytrapped car packed with an explosive charge weighing some 70 kilograms. The car was parked on campus in a parking lot on the north side of the American University administration building. The explosion totally demolished the northern side of the four-story administration building and caused cracks in the rest of the building.

Brigadier General al-Ayyubi said there were no victims from the explosion, adding that all the students were in good health and suffered no injuries.

Karami Denounces Bombing

NC0811125891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami on 8 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The American University is a major educational institution, and many of our leading figures are indebted to it. I think that the purpose of the attack against the university is not political because the university is an educational and not a political institution; it has nothing to do with politics. I firmly believe that no one benefits from such an action except Israel. Therefore, we denounce this action. We think that the American University is one of the institutions that must be safeguarded and supported by all means in order to continue its service to Lebanon and to the Arab students who come to it from all parts of the Arab homeland.

We affirm that such actions cannot affect our positions and our course. Our position is clear and frank, and stems from our purely national convictions.

Israeli Helicopters Raid al-Rashidiyah

NC0711164591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1632 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The situation in the south remains volatile in light of the Israeli escalation this afternoon. This took the form of an air raid against the al-Rashidiyah camp. Helicopters of the Israeli occupation forces fired three missiles against the camp shortly before 1600 today. The AFP correspondent in the area said that the raid, the second in eight days, caused loss of life in the camp.

At noon today, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud inspected the Lebanese Army's forward positions close to enemy lines in al-Nabatiyah. He was accompanied by Staff Maj. Gen. Qasim Siblini, commander of the southern military district, and several other officers. Gen. Lahhud gave the necessary instructions to the personnel manning these positions.

Further on Raid

NC0711175291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] According to our radio correspondent in the south, one Israeli helicopter fired eight missiles at two centers for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayif Hawatimah, in al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre this afternoon. The raid led to the death of one man, Hasan 'Uthman, and the injury of five others, including Hasan al-Shawlah and Nimr Yasin.

Our correspondent said that following the raid, Israeli helicopters overflew the area. A military gunboat appeared off the shore in the south and gunmen aboard it fired machinegun rounds at al-Rashidiyah camp and the surrounding areas.

Second Raid Performed

NC0711202691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli helicopter gunships today waged two raids against Palestinian positions in the south. The first raid was against Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] positions in the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre. Two persons were killed and three others injured in that raid.

The second raid took place tonight against a position in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and resulted in casualties. Ambulances rushed to the scene.

The attacking aircraft were confronted with ground fire. Following both raids, Israeli planes overflew southern areas, particularly al-Rashidiyah and Sidon.

A DFLP spokesman said that the raid led to the death of one man and the injury of three others. The spokesman said that the helicopters fired five air-to-surface missiles. The spokesman said that all efforts to cancel the PLO, as he put it, should be confronted.

Villages in South Come Under Artillery Fire

NC0811141591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Between 1000 and 1230 today, the Israeli occupation forces and the Agent Lahd militia—from their positions on the hills of Haddathah, al-Tiri, and Bra'shit—shelled a number of villages located within the operations area of the UN Irish contingent in the central sector. Scores of 155-mm and 175-mm shells fell in Bra'shit, Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haris, Yatar, and Abrikha. Two people reportedly were wounded in Haris.

According to security reports from al-Nabatiyah and the central sector areas, the villages and towns of Bra'shit, Haddathah, Abrikha, Yuhmur, and Arnun came under intermittent artillery fire, which lasted until dawn today.

Iranian Delegation Led by Khonsari Arrives

NC0711133391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] An Iranian delegation arrived in Beirut this morning. The delegation is led by Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director general of the Middle East and North Africa Affairs' department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry; the secretary general of the [Iranian] Red Crescent Organization; and 'Abdollah Sohrabi, assistant director general of the Middle East department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry. The delegation was received by Ambassador Ja'far Mu'awiyah, director of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Department, and the Iranian charge in Lebanon.

Khonsari said the purpose of the delegation's visit is to examine the situation in the south. He added that a decision had been made to send food supplies and medicines needed by the citizens in the south following the recent attacks. The supplies, weighing approximately 80 tons, will arrive aboard an Iranian plane.

Asked if Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Lebanon, Khonsari confirmed it.

Fatah Official on Palestinian Retaliation

NC0811083691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Two Palestinians were killed and 14 people injured in two raids by Israeli helicopters yesterday, two and a half hours apart, on Palestinian targets in the south. At about 1940 yesterday, three fighter helicopters launched missiles at a building used by the Fatah movement lying on the outskirts of the 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp. The missiles hit the one-story house, destroying part of it.

Palestinian sources said 10 children were injured in the raid on 'Ayn al-Hilwah. Less than three hours earlier, three Israeli helicopters raided al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre, with one of them firing three shells from low altitude at the office of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, on the second floor of a house at the edge of the camp.

A Palestinian source clarified that this house, formerly a Fatah headquarters building, was evacuated last July when the Lebanese Army deployed around the camps in the south. He said it had been transformed into a nursery for Palestinian orphans. The raid on al-Rashidiyah camp resulted in the death of a PFLP fighter and a civilian and wounded four other civilians.

Kamal Midhat, Fatah movement official in Lebanon, said that yesterday's raids confirm that Israel does not want peace and that it will continue its raids against innocent Palestinians. He asserted that the Palestinian resistance is capable of retaliating against these raids with special methods at the appropriate time and place.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine believes these raids constitute blatant defiance by Israel of the international community. In a statement, the DFLP asked the Arab delegations to the peace negotiations with Israel to stop taking part in these talks until they get guarantees from the two sponsors of the peace conference that Israel will halt construction of settlements and stop shelling the Palestinian villages and camps in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli raids were preceded by cannon fire during the day which concentrated on al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, especially Kafr Tibnit, Kafr Rumman, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

A fundamentalist source told AL-DIYAR newspaper that the fundamentalists are not concerned about the speculation in the past few days that there may have been local and foreign calls for the Islamic resistance in the south to halt its operations.

U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker stressed the need to restore calm to the south, saying he believed this was in the interest of Lebanon and the region. He said he hoped the restoration of contacts with Israel would curtail the escalation taking place there.

Buwayz Discusses Israeli Delegation Proposals

NC0811120291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has clarified to AL-DIYAR newspaper that the talks between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations in Madrid have focused on organizational issues. He said the Israeli side suggested that Israel has no designs on Lebanon or its resources and that it recognizes an independent Lebanon with sovereignty over all its territories.

Buwayz said the Israeli delegation indicated that it wished to resume talks along the Lebanese-Israeli borders, and that this was rejected by the Lebanese delegation. He noted that the south is under occupation. The Israeli delegation then discussed the period for resuming

negotiations and asked the Lebanese delegation for a longer timespan so that some of the regional contradictions could be clarified. They agreed on a period ranging from between three weeks to one month.

The Israeli delegation then proposed appointing political liaison officers or using certain embassies to coordinate between the two delegations. The Lebanese delegation, however, refused to deviate from the mechanism of the conference, Buwayz said.

Buwayz said he believes bilateral talks would start within three weeks to one month.

'Sources' on Lebanon-Syria 4 Nov Talks

PM0811104591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Asad Urged Lebanon Not To Await Negotiations by Other Arabs If It Achieved Results With Israel On Implementation Of Resolution 425"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Presidential sources have stated that President Ilyas al-Hirawi's talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad in Latakia last Monday [4 November] focused on the situation in southern Lebanon and a thorough assessment of the Madrid meetings so far.

They added that it was agreed to take measures which would bind the citizens to their land and give them reassurance to prevent their desertion of the southern villages, particularly those adjacent to the occupied border strip.

It was also agreed to strengthen the Lebanese Army in the south and to give it all the powers that would enable it to play its role fully. The sources said that the strengthening of the army in the south was under way and would continue in such a way as to serve the people's steadfastness and give them a sense of confidence and reassurance.

The sources did not conceal the fact that the situation in the south last Saturday caused the state leaders to fear a large-scale eruption in the south in the event of failure of Lebanon's intensive contacts with the U.S. Administration which exerted enormous pressures to rectify the situation and contain it within certain limits.

On the question of resistance operations in the south, Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad agreed on a number of measures that would put the resistance activities in the service of the government's political aim of speeding up the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, not igniting the situation in the south, and taking it back to the pre-June 1982 era. In this conntext, Damascus will hold a series of contacts with those concerned with the situation in the south, politically and on the ground, to achieve a formula that would ensure that Israel is not given any pretext to escalate the situation in the south.

The sources said that President al-Hirawi spoke at length with President al-Asad on what Damascus could do to help in bringing the situation in the south under control, and expressed to him his "fear that Israel might continue to exploit a certain type of operations against it to pursue its policy of evicting the population of the villages and emptying some areas to revive the pre-1982 situation and pave the way for the Lahd Army to expand the border strip and then negotiate with us over it."

The sources further said that he assured al-Asad that he "understands that advantage should be taken of the resistance card for liberation" but he explained that "if Lebanon could not adapt to it and bear its consequences then, he feared, it would become a burden because of the Israeli policy." They added that al-Hirawi focused on "the need to fortify the south, cling more to the land, and return the evacuees."

AL-HAYAH has learned that President al-Hirawi and his Syrian counterpart discussed in depth the Madrid negotiations from the angle of the situation in the south and that he [al-Hirawi] emphasized that "all the other delegations went to Madrid with their backs better protected than the Lebanese delegation and that they were more comfortable than the Lebanese delegation which left behind political anarchy, a tragic situation in the south, and disregard by some regional parties for its cause."

According to informed sources, the two presidents discussed the Iranian position in that respect, the threats made against the Lebanese delegation, and what was published in the TEHRAN TIMES. The sources said that "the Syrian side put it on record before al-Hirawi that it disapproved of and was surprised by the Iranian position and what was said by certain Iranian circles because that is different from the impression it had of the Iranian position on Syria and Lebanon." The sources hinted that Damascus was carefully watching the Iranian attitude at this stage to determine its dimensions.

According to the same sources, the two presidents discussed the Madrid negotiations in depth. The presidential sources categorically denied the Beirut press claims that the purpose of al-Hirawi's visit was to consult al-Asad on a message he received from President George Bush advising Lebanon to hold side talks with Israel peripheral to the Madrid conference. The sources said that these reports were "fabricated and untrue and that it is inconceivable that the Americans would ask such a thing of us because they know our position."

The presidential sources said that al-Hirawi returned from Latakia and his talks with al-Asad, attended in part by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, with full understanding and coordination, particularly as the Syrian president is convinced that the negotiations will continue, and that the Arab sides should continue to participate in them and seek to keep the American eye present to put pressure on Israel. He confirmed Lebanese-Syrian understanding that both countries will

oppose negotiations in the Middle East and reject the Israeli proposal in this connection, particularly as Lebanon cannot afford to hold meetings with the Israelis on Lebanese territory or in Israel because of the opposition to Lebanon's participation in the peace conference and because of the Israeli escalation.

The sources further said that the two presidents also held consultations on some reports suggesting that the negotiations are likely to continue in Washington throughout the next stage, and that this is seen as a better prospect because it keeps the U.S. eye on the negotiations.

The presidential sources told AL-HAYAH that the results President al-Hirawi brought back from Latakia include al-Asad's confirmation that Syria's support for the separation of Resolution 425 on Israeli withdrawal from the south went as far as emphasizing that if Lebanon managed to get any results from its negotiations with Israel that would lead to withdrawal from Lebanese territory before the other Arab parties reach agreements with Israel, then it should go ahead without waiting for the Syrian and other Arab negotiations with the Hebrew state. This confirms a similar position conveyed by Khaddam to Lebanese leaders last Thursday.

The sources said that al-Asad's remarks were in reply to al-Hirawi who, trying to reassure al-Asad, said that "Lebanon is eager to coordinate with Syria in Lebanon's interest, and if Syria considers that Lebanon's achievement of some results with the Israeli delegation should not lead to agreement on implementation if Israel had ill-premeditated intentions against Syria behind it....I do not want to gain something and regain a part of the south, for example, if it meant losing our ties with Syria which we consider our main supporter on the question of solutions...." In reply, al-Asad immediately encouraged al-Hirawi to go ahead and implement what is agreed upon regarding implementation of Resolution 425, if such agreement was achieved with Israel. He added that, after that, there could be some coordination on the position to be taken at the third phase of the negotiations relating to normalization and economic development.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Lawyer 'Umar Karami has said that he expects the bilateral negotiations to take a long time noting the "lack of agreement so far on a venue for the second phase of bilateral negotiations." He added that "this would take four weeks after U.S.-Soviet contacts."

He stressed that "the first session of bilateral talks held in Madrid was a pulse feeler." He told his visitors that "the first session consisted of an exchange of views on implementation of Resolution 425," adding that "the Israeli delegation raised the post-peace issue and said it had no ambitions in Lebanese territory."

Al-Murr: Ban on U.S. Spare Parts Lifted

NC0711133091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr announced today that the United States has partially lifted the ban on the shipment of arms and military spare parts to the Lebanese Army. The minister was speaking following a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker. He told reporters that he spoke with the U.S. ambassador about military relations, because there is the outstanding issue of the weapons which Lebanon purchased in 1985 and 1986. Minister al-Murr said that there has been a ban on the shipment of arms and spare parts. The ban has now been lifted on the shipment of spare parts, and this is important for the military vehicles which we possess.

Minister al-Murr said that most of the discussion with the U.S. ambassador dealt with the situation in the south, because the U.S. role is very important, and al-Murr thinks this role contributed to ending the Israeli shelling and the abnormal situation in the south.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Delegation Leaves for Moscow Peace Talks

BK0811100891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 8 (AFP)—An Afghan resistance delegation Friday left for maiden talks in Moscow hoping that the new leadership in the Soviet Union had "concrete proposals" for a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, leading the 11-member team, told a news conference here that the Soviets understood the challenge for peace in this region.

The guerrilla leaders' visit to Moscow is their first since Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in 1979 after a palace coup within the Kabul regime, triggering a tribal insurgency.

The guerrilla war is continuing against the Soviet-backed government of President Najibollah, though Soviet forces have withdrawn from the country.

The mojahedin delegation will reach Moscow on Sunday after a stopover in Saudi Arabia to perform a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Three other powerful hardline leaders, Golboddin Hekmatyar, 'Abdul Rasol Sayyaf and Yunes Khales, have declined the Soviet invitation.

The cause of the 13-year old war in Afghanistan is the "illegitimate government of Najibollah," said Rabbani, chief of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction active against Kabul's forces along the Soviet border.

He did not say if the mojahedin were carrying solid proposals as to who would replace Najibollah. "Everything will be unfolded at the negotiating table," he added.

"We believe the Russians have solid proposals otherwise there would have been no point in our going to Moscow," Rabbani said.

"We are confident that peace would originate from Moscow."

His political adviser Mas'ud Khalili, later told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] the resistance leaders were optimistic about their "strong position."

Answering a question, Rabbani said that the issue of Soviet prisoners of war would figure in the talks.

"I am myself concerned" about the missing Soviets as well as the Afghans who disappeared during the war, he said. He did not say if the delegation was going with a list of POWs in rebel custody.

Rabbani rejected any solution imposed from outside and said mojahedin were not keen to discuss the composition of a transitional government in Moscow.

It is the Afghan people's right to decide their country's future setup among themselves, he said, adding that "this issue cannot be discussed anywhere else."

Calling for an end to Moscow's support to Najibollah's regime, the guerrilla leader warned that mojahedin would not lay down arms until foreign interference ceased in their country.

He reiterated that establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan was the "only guarantee for peace in the region." Moscow should know that "it is very clear in our minds that Najibollah is a usurper and his government is illegitimate."

He said the delegation was conscious that a political settlement it was seeking would not be possible in the first round. But he said he was confident that the talks taking place amid a changing world scenaraio after "the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan and a collapse of communism" in that country, would be "effective and constructive."

He again rejected any dialogue with the Kabul government, saying that "we have decided not to talk to the puppets."

But he said there were some "good Muslims in Najibollah's administration" who could be considered in the transitional mechanism.

About the absence of important rebel leaders in the delegation, Rabbani said "we respect their feelings", which he believed were based on the policy of "actions and reactions.

But he said the will of the majority of the Afghan nation was more important. "The oppressed people are waiting for an end to their sufferings in Afghanistan," he added.

Rebels Reportedly Involved in Attack on Ex-King

LD0811072591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0510 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7, BAKHTAR—As a result of the investigations done by the Italian police, it has been now disclosed, that person who has been accused on the life-attempt and wounding of Mohammad Zaher Shah ex-king of Afghanistan, worked apparently for those mojehedin groups who are against the taking of power by Zaher Shah again, reported the radio Voice of America today. According to another report Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, head of the mojahids' interim government during his interview with radio BBC while condemning this terroristic attack on Afghan ex-king stressed that everyone who had committed this crime and every group which has resorted to such an action acted, in fact, against Islam and humanity. He added, there are some groups which are terrorising Afghan personalities and want to hurt the hearts of the Afghanistan people.

Pro-Saudi Rebels Capture Konarha From Rival Group

BK0711131091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 7 (AFP)—A Saudi-backed Afghan resistance faction Thursday claimed it had regained control of the eastern Konarha Province from the rival Hezb-e Eslami of Golboddin Hekmatyar.

The Jam'iyat-od-Dawa party of orthodox Muslims, known as salafis, is in "complete control" of the provincial capital Asadabad, which was overrun by Hezb guerrillas after fierce factional fighting more than two months ago, a party spokesman Thursday said.

Hezb-e Eslami has blamed salafis for "unprovoked attacks" on its bases in Konarha, but did not say if its guerrillas had pulled back.

Salafi sect chief Jamil-ur-Rahman was killed August 30 by an Egyptian Arab and the fighting has since died down.

Mowlawi Samiollah, 50, succeeded the pro-Saudi leader ur-Rahman who had set up an Islamic government in Konarha, the first province to be fully liberated shortly after the 1979 communist coup in Kabul.

The Dawa spokesman said clashes erupted Saturday when Hezb mojahedin shelled salafi positions in Darya Pech, a narrow pass in the mountainous region. He gave no casualty figures, but said the local population formed a tribal "lashkar," or mob, to join the salafis.

The lashkar forced the Hezb guerrillas to withdraw from Asadabad, the spokesman said.

He said Hezb mojahedin had taken up positions in the Nawa Pass hill tops on the border with Pakistan, shelling Asadabad with heavy artillery.

Denying that its guerrillas started the fighting, a Hezb communique warned salafis of "severe consequences" if they did not stop the attacks on its mojahedin.

President Najibollah Discusses Peace Process

PM0711113691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 4 Nov 91 p 6

[Interview with Afghan President Najibollah by correspondent Remi Favret in Kabul—date not given]

[Text] [Favret] What influence will recent events in the Soviet Union have on Afghanistan?

[Najibollah] A political, social, and economic upheaval on such a scale is bound to have an impact on mankind as a whole. Without commenting on what is still an internal Soviet affair, let us say the fact that the Soviet people so quickly took control of their problems is a source of pleasure to us.

[Favret] Are you in favor of a meeting in Moscow between the Soviet leadership and the leaders of the Afghan resistance?

[Najibollah] Because we opted long ago for a political solution, we welcome any step in that direction.

[Favret] Preparations for such a visit to Moscow highlighted internal quarrels within the resistance. Are you counting on its disintegration? Are you seeking an agreement with the moderates which would exclude the extremists?

[Najibollah] National reconciliation is the only possible course because the military solution is bound to lead to more bloodshed and destruction. The current international climate and the efforts made by the UN secretary general and several countries encourage a peaceful solution. Unfortunately, some fundamentalist groups are still displaying an irrational attitude and are pursuing a military solution.

[Favret] Your opponents insist on your resignation as a precondition to any political settlement. When and under what circumstances would you be prepared to give up power?

[Najibollah] I have always said that the country's future and the appointment of future leaders could only be determined by the people's will, through free democratic elections and a secret ballot monitored by the United Nations. I, like the others, will then have to bow to the people's will. That is the rule of democracy; I will never do anything to circumvent it.

Until then, we still have the problem of the political vacuum in the country. The measures that we take must not lead to chaos but must rather strengthen stability and restore peace. I emphasize, however, that all questions can be raised during inter-Afghan negotiations and resolved. The important thing is that all the country's forces or a majority of them are uniting for a peaceful solution, instead of risking disintegration by ignoring some political tendencies or individuals.

[Favret] Would you therefore accept that the issue of who will lead the country during the transitional period before the elections should be the subject of negotiations?

[Najibollah] Yes. I said that all questions could be raised during the negotiations. The United States and the Soviet Union have jointly announced an end to arms supplies to the various Afghan sides on 31 December. But what we are asking, for the good of the country, is that before ending those supplies, the Afghans should take a decisive step toward a political solution. Even if a lasting peace does not immediately result from that, it will make it possible to avert military confrontation.

[Favret] What is the nature of your agreements with the commanders? Do you have contacts with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud?

[Najibollah] We are constantly renewing our offers to the local commanders as well as to the leaders of the Peshawar parties. And you know that some of the commanders have accepted our national reconciliation policy. For instance, a large group—more than 5,000 fighters—recently joined our ranks in Herat. We are maintaining contacts with other commanders, including Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. We invite those commanders, on whom peace or war in this country depends, to come and solve the Afghan problem with us.

We hope that that will bring peace. As long as we are faced with military pressure, we have the capacity to defend our homeland, our national sovereignty, our independence, and our territorial integrity.

[Favret] What do you plan to do to combat the economic crisis that is ravaging Afghanistan as is much as the war?

[Najibollah] Our economic problems are mainly caused by this pointless war, and the state is doing its best to remedy them. The improvement in agricultural production this year allows us to hope that we will soon be in a position to meet our food requirements. Unfortunately, we meanwhile have difficulty in satisfactorily meeting all the population's needs. This is why we are requesting the international community's assistance.

[Favret] The USSR has made known its new position on Afghanistan which consists of seeking a negotiated solution among Afghans. But do you think that the United States has a sufficiently clear policy?

[Najibollah] The joint Soviet-U.S. declaration on halting arms supplies to the warring sides, the recognition of the Afghans' right to choose their destiny, the support for inter-Afghan dialogue are all encouraging signs which show the United States' rational position. As a joint guarantor of the Geneva accords, the United States can work with the USSR to make a decisive contribution to peace.

Democratization and pluralism are already being put into practice in political life. Press freedom, freedom of speech, the new liberal constitution, the establishment of a neutral government, the resumption of parliament's activities, economic liberalism, the market economy, privatization, and laws guaranteeing human rights are achievements of this regime which the United States can no longer ignore. This is especially the case because the opposition comprises fundamentalists involved in drug trafficking, murder, and terrorism.

We are now the liberals whereas they are advocating medieval totalitarianism.

Najibollah Sends Congratulatory Note to Gorbachev

LD0711213291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, has sent a message of congratulations to Moscow addressed to His Excellency Esteemed Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the national day of the USSR with the following text:

His Excellency Esteemed Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, president of the USSR: Esteemed excellency, on behalf of the people and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself, I sincerely congratulate you on the national day of the USSR and through you to the government, people, and state of that friendly country.

Having expressed best wishes for the further prosperity, welfare, and progress of the people and state of the Soviet Union, I add that fortunately this national day of the Soviet Union is being celebrated when the friendship and good-neighborliness between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union is passing through its developed course in the mutual interests of the people and governments of both countries.

The people and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan have high regards for the tireless efforts of the Soviet Union to ensure peace and in support of the proposals by and stands taken by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. For our part, we assure you once again that the Republic of Afghanistan, having warmly welcomed the joint statement dated 13 September 1991 by the USSR and U.S. foreign ministers on ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan, will not refrain from rendering any type of cooperation towards implementing its goals and provisions.

Please accept our best wishes for your own health, welfare, and further progress and that of your dear family and your colleagues, and for the permanent prosperity of the friendly people of the Soviet Union.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Kabul Function Marks National Day

LD0711134791 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 6, BAKHTAR—On the occasion of the Nov. 7, 1991, "Soviet Union National Day" a function was held by Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association in Radio Afghanistan Hall today, reports a BAKHTAR correspondent.

The function was participated by A. Hamid Mohtat, vice president, A. Karim Shadan, supreme judge, M. Anwar Arghandiwal, deputy prime minister, some of the cabinet members, Eng. Nazar Mohd, deputy chairman of Watan (Homeland) Party, some incharges [as received] and members of political parties and social organizations, and members of the corps diplomatic of Kabul.

Dr. M. Anwar Shams, minister of higher and vocational education and chairman of the said association, in his speech states that, friendship between RA [Republic of Afghanistan]-USSR has been progressed in the benefit of peace and thus has paved the ground for the implementation of national reconciliation policy in the country.

Then B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the USSR to Kabul, in his speech emphasized on the traditional friendship and continuation of mutually beneficial cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Khaleqyar Sends National Day Message

LD0811081391 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0534 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 7, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan], has sent a congratulatory [word indistinct] to [words indistinct] A. Silayev, chairman of the USSR inter-republican economic committee on the occasion of the national day of that country to Moscow today, reports BAKHTAR.

The message besides expressing sincere congratulations emphasises, celebration of the USSR national day takes place at a time when the traditional friendship good Afghan-Soviet relations are being expanded and consolidated to the benefit of peoples and governments of the both countries.

Also, 'A. Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the RA, has sent a congratulatory message addressed to Boris Pankin, minister of foreign affairs of that country on the same occasion, to Moscow today.

Parliamentarians Send Congratulations

LD0811071491 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0527 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 7, BAKHTAR—Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi and Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speakers of the houses of Senate and people's representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) have sent today messages of felicitations addressed to the leadership delegation of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union congratulating them on the occasion of the national day of that country to Moscow today.

The messages have expressed confidence that the mutual friendly relations existing between the parliament of the RA and Soviet Union which play an important role in the maintenance of high interests of the peoples of the two countries would put positive effects on the realisation of peace and democracy in our country and in the region as well.

The messages while pointing out to the good neighbourly ties existed in the course of history between the two countries hope that it would further cement friendly relations between the parliament of both countries too.

Officials Say Moscow Tightening Purse Strings

BK0811035691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0303 GMT 8 Nov 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Soviet Union, dogged by problems at home, has laid out strict trade rules for Afghanistan and pointed out to Kabul that it had fallen back on its commitments of the past, officials said here.

The government of President Najibollah last weekend bowed to Soviet demands before inking two joint protocols governing future trade practices and opening a new chapter in economic cooperation between the Soviet republics and Kabul.

The two protocols, signed after seven days of negotiations between delegates from the Republics of Russia and Tajikistan and Moscow officials and their counterparts here, are seen by observers as the beginning of the end of Soviet economic largesse to Afghanistan.

The visiting delegation, which met Najibollah, Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar and seven other Afghan ministers, stressed that Kabul will have to meet bills for Soviet imports with its natural gas supplies and that there will be no easy credit, official sources said.

The Soviet Union in return will export wheat, diesel, kerosene and petrol to fuel-starved Afghanistan during 1992, but strictly against natural gas exports from here, diplomats who attended the negotiations said.

There was no official word on the two protocols, and state-run television, which normally broadcasts lengthy reports on visiting Soviet delegations, was silent four days after the agreements were signed.

Moscow had been eyeing the reserves of natural gas, whose deliveries were stopped for security reasons before the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal in February 1989.

Under an agreement reached late in March, Kabul announced that Afghanistan was to export 1.2 million cubic metres (42 million cubic feet) of gas annually to the Soviet Union, but sales reportedly got hung up over Afghan suspcions that the Soviets were cheating on the meter.

Gas sales to the Soviet Union fetched Afghanistan the equivalent of 300 million dollars a year when the wells producing for exports were plugged.

Soviet and Afghan officials said the two delegations also discussed Kabul's regular default in paying debts for 1991's imports from the Soviet Union, and said Moscow was pressing for them to be honored.

"There were exchanges of views about reforms in the Soviet Union and prevailing conditions in Afghanistan," said an Afghan Commerce Ministry official, adding that the visiting delegation had driven a "hard bargain" for the coming calendar year.

Kabul has also conceded to demands that Moscow and the republics will consider Afghanistan's private sector

as the highest priority area in future economic cooperation, the officials said, and added that it was an endorsement of a previous agreement reached in Moscow last month.

The virtual privatisation of the food, light industry and transport sectors in Afghanistan has resulted in the shifting of interests of the Soviet republics to these areas, where a strictly dollar trade would yield higher profits, the Afghan Commerce Ministry official said.

"The republics know it for sure that Kabul has precious little hard currency to spare and if it has to enter an open-dollar trade regime, it would rather look to Europe than the Soviet Union," an Asian diplomat said.

He added that the political situation here makes the republics balk from entering long-term economic agreements with the Najibollah regime.

Trade between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan has until now been conducted on a clearing dollar account with one dollar pegged at 81 afghanis for countertrade purposes.

The dollar brings some 1,000 afghanis at semi-official trading rates here.

Najibollah's international market credibility weakened following the U.N. peace formula blueprint to end the 13-year-long war, which includes a transitional government until elections.

No specific details were available on the quantity of food and fuel the Soviet delegation had promised to provide for the coming year during the negotiations which began October 28, but Moscow's commitments call for the supply of 200,000 tonnes of wheat and 500,000 tonnes of petroleum products this year.

Bangladesh

Minister Says BCCI To Reopen in December

BK0711121191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0736 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 7 (AFP)—The scandal-ridden Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in Bangladesh is expected to start operations under a new name from December, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said here.

"The closure of BCCI branch here will have an adverse affect on the banking sector and it is our duty now to salvage it," the minister said in an interview published in Thursday's issue of the AJKER KAGOJ newspaper.

Bangladesh authorities closed BCCI's branches here on July 5 on advice from Abu Dhabi after the bank's worldwide operations were frozen by the Bank of England following allegations of fraud.

Thursday's announcement followed reports that Dhaka was holding talks with Abu Dhabi to salvage the bank in Bangladesh on grounds that it had a "comparatively good performance."

BCCI, one of the most popular foreign banks in Bangladesh, had deposits of 171 million dollars and assets of 142 million dollars, and used to handle one-third of the country's foreign trade.

The government on "humanitarian grounds" ordered the state-run Agrani Bank to start paying interest-free advances to BCCI depositors equal to the full amount of their accounts up to 50,000 taka (1,388 dollars).

Rahman said the authorities had a two-step program to start the operations and the first effort would be seek a possible merger of BCCI here with the national banks.

If authorities failed to get any positive and acceptable response within 15 days after the offer was made, then the government would offer a 40 percent share of the bank to account holders and an equal proportion to national banks, while the state would keep 20 percent of the shares.

However, there would be one condition for the account holders, that they would not make any withdrawals for a limited period of time, he said.

"We do not want BCCI to completely shut down and we are also taking steps to recover loans given by the bank," Rahman added.

India

Government Denies Blame for SAARC Summit Failure

BK0711160891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] India today refuted Sri Lankan press reports of blaming New Delhi for the postponement of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. It said New Delhi was guided by the conclusion of the SAARC chairman, President Gayoom of the Maldives. Replying to queries by newsmen, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said India did not insist on anything, including the presence of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan as a prerequisite for holding the summit. The spokesman said it is totally unwarranted to sugggest that Bhutan had been moved or persuaded to take decisions by extraneous considerations. He said every country will take its own sovereign decision in the light of its perception of its own national interest.

Congress-I Spokesman on SAARC Summit, Pakistan

BK0711145491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The Congress-I says the cancelation of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meet at Colombo is a big disappointment to the

party and hoped that the heads of state and government meeting will be rescheduled for an early date. The party said it attaches high priority to India's relations with its neighbors and particularly to regional cooperation among the SAARC countries. The Congress-I spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, said that the party was hoping for a fruitful deliberation at the Colombo meet.

Referring to Pakistan, Prof. Thakur said the Congress-I is always for cordial relations between the two countries. But this has not been easy in spite of persistent efforts from New Delhi. He said the party views with great concern the continued support to undesirable elements in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir from across the border and Pakistan's continuous efforts to raise the Jammu and Kashmir issue at international forums. Prof. Thakur said his party believes that any solution to the problem should be reached bilaterally and in accordance with the Simla agreement.

Finance Minister on Economic Reforms, Growth Rate

BK0711164091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has indicated that the government will soon relax import curbs, begin 20-percent disinvestment in profit-making public sector undertakings, and streamline agricultural credit policy as a part of the ongoing economic reforms. Inaugurating the economic editors conference in New Delhi today, the finance minister ruled out taxation of agricultural income and wealth. He said the recent changes in trade and economic policy have helped to restore the confidence of international investors. The finance minister said that efforts will now be made to acquire more direct foreign investment rather than credit capital.

Recounting the difficult situation in which the country was placed when the present goverment took office, the finance minister said that prudence will continue to be the hallmark of trade policy liberalization. Dr. Singh said the overall economic growth during the current year will be around 3.5 percent. He expressed the hope that the economy will achieve 6-percent growth rate in two to three years. The finance minister said that the flow of bank credit to the agricultural sector has shown a disturbing trend of late.

The government has convened a meeting of top bankers and Nabard [National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development] officials next month to revamp the agricultural credit policy. Reiterating the goverment's commitment to safeguard the interest of the weaker sections, he said generating employment in rural areas will get priority.

President Urges Weapons Development

BK0711162491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has called upon the scientists and technologists in defense research laboratories to develop quality hardware to the defense services on time at affordable costs. Inaugurating a nine-crore rupee naval physical and oceonographic laboratory complex in Cochin today, Mr. Venkataraman said that we are committed to peace in the world and nonviolence in the settlement of disputes, but we cannot relax our vigil on our defense preparedness.

The minister of state for defense, Mr. S. Krishnakumar, in his address said that setting up of a defense electronic complex in Kerala is under consideration of the central government.

The state governor, Mr. B. Rachchaiah, and the chief minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, were present on the occasion.

Iran

Yazdi Gives Sermon on Madrid, Ship Seizure

LD0811113291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] During his Friday prayers sermons in Tehran today, Ayatollah Yazdi condemned the Madrid conference and referred to the possibility of the Zionist regime's retraction from its announced positions with regard to the establishment of Zionist settlements and withdrawal from Islamic lands as imaginary, empty, and wrong. Tehran's interim Friday imam spoke of the aims of the Madrid conference and America's efforts in terms of strengthening the Zionist regime, providing the interests of world arrogance, and denial of the Palestinians' rights.

He said: The escalation of the Palestinian mujahid's struggle in the occupied lands during that conference points to the fact that the coming to the negotiating table of some Arab heads of state will not solve the Palestinian problem.

In another part of his sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi spoke of the recent speech by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, concerning the youth, the occupation of the den of spies and the active presence of the youth during that stage, and training week. He said: Those involved in training at education centers must consider Islamic values and the guidelines of the leader and undertake the task of training the younger generation so that the Islamic revolution's ability in confronting the enemy and the spirit of defending our values is safeguarded.

He referred to the seizure of a cargo ship bound for the Islamic Republic of Iran by Turkey as contrary to the

international Montreux agreement and expressed hope that after the Iranian president's message, the Turkish authorities would solve this issue rapidly so that the relations between the two neighboring countries are not strained.

Speaking of the UN delegation's trip to assess the damages to Iran arising from the imposed war, the interim Friday imam of Tehran called upon the UN secretary general to carry out his duties in order to implement other articles of UN Security Council Resolution 598 as soon as possible.

Ayatollah Yazdi congratulated the prayer givers on the birth anniversary of the great lady of Islam, Her Holiness Zeynab Kobra, peace be upon her, and asked ladies to be inspired by the words and deeds of her holiness and her esteemed mother.

King Fahd Sends President Gift From Mecca

AU0611140691 Paris AFP in English 1239 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov 6 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia on Wednesday sent Iran a piece of black cloth from Islam's holiest site at Mecca in a highly symbolic gesture to seal improved ties between the two countries and the radio here said it was a most "precious gift."

The black cloth presented to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was taken from a curtain draping the Kaba'a, a huge cube made of grey stone that stands in the center of the vast courtyard of the Great Mosque in Mecca, official Tehran Radio said.

Mecca, Islam's holiest site, is the center of a pilgrimage that Muslims must undertake at least once in a lifetime.

The "precious gift" is a "special present" to Hashemi-Rafsanjani by Saudi King Fahd, the radio said adding that the piece of black cloth was delivered to the head of state by Saudi charge d'affaires 'Uthman Badr Baksh.

The gesture is the latest sign in efforts by the two countries to improve their relations, which resumed in March after a three-year break.

In June, Iran and Saudi Arabia said they wanted to upgrade their ties by appointing ambassadors to one another's country before an Islamic summit expected to take place in December in Dakar.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Baksh he was satisfied with the development of ties between Riyadh and Tehran.

Khamene'i Addresses Students, Teachers

LD0611154191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to a gathering of students and teachers on 6 November; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In any society and country the young are the axis on which all movement revolves. If the movement is a revolutionary one, a political uprising, the young are ahead of others on the scene. If the movement is for progress or if it is a cultural movement, the young are again ahead of others and they work more efficiently than others do. Even in divine movements, including the movement of the early Islamic era, the young were the axis for movement and the focal point for efforts and dynamism. [passage omitted]

Enemies of societies, including Islamic societies, are well aware of that point. Specifically, they have put their finger on it—not today, but for the last century, for example.

A comprehensive program was initiated, launched all over the Third World, including the Islamic countries, with the purpose of corrupting the young generation. You know that the era of colonialism goes back 150 years, or maybe almost 200, when the Western countries began to encroach on Asian and African countries. They knew that such a situation would not continue if the young were allowed to develop their culture, cultivate their character, and exercise willpower. If they did so, the young would not allow the foreigners and plunderers to live in comfort. The colonialists, therefore, began to draw up plans to corrupt the young generation. You might have read in books and articles that in some of the Latin American or East Asian countries the young generation is engulfed in various vices such as narcotics, intoxicatig substances, and sexual corruption. Such a situation is not normal. It was not so in the beginning. That is the result of a policy which has been enforced.

Of course, unfortunately, we too were not spared during the era of royal tyranny. In our country they also enforced that policy as far as they could, using the treacherous and blackhearted Pahlavi family and their agents. [passage omitted]

Everyone knows what arrogance is thinking of today. Everyone is aware of the thoughts pursued by America, which is the head of arrogance. They are thinking of dominating the entire world, particularly this sensitive region where we live—that is, the Middle East region, the Persian Gulf, and this vital economic and strategic area. This arrogant thought is followed by plans. These plans against people and against Islam involve human beings. If arrogance were to succeed in pushing away this massive human wave, the governments would not be able to stand against America. You saw what the governments did during the betrayal [Madrid] conference. If anyone could halt the pharaonic and satanic movement of U.S. arrogance and its allies, it would be the nations; and the nations can.

No doubt the planners of arrogance understand this fact. No doubt they consider the nations, and particularly their young, as a great danger. No doubt they have thought of a solution and will adopt the necessary tactics

vis-a-vis this danger. At this particular moment, therefore, where you are sitting you can well imagine that one of the essential tasks before arrogance is to push the young generation out of the arena in the Islamic countries, even more so in the more vigilant Islamic countries. Which Islamic country is most vigilant, most lively, and most fearless against arrogance? Which one, but Islamic Iran? The young generation of Islamic Iran should therefore realize that in order to push them out of the arena of struggle, where victory shall definitely come to the nations, global arrogance is busy planning and is busy spending money. It is busy hatching various plots and you are the target of these plots. You, the brave, committed, and revolutionary youths, who have stood to realize all the objectives of your revolution and the imam [Khomeyni]—you, who are are determined to eliminate any obstacles against this path, you are the target.

Any move which makes the young generation feel that it should distance itself from the arena of resistance has direct or indirect links with America and the arrogant system. This is a general principle. They wish to do here what they have done in other countries. That is, they wish to keep the young generation amused with sexual matters, to keep them busy with personal problems far away from revolutionary aspirations, to make the young addicted to narcotics and alcoholic drinks, to distract their attention from the main aspirations and objectives, to make the young people preoccupied with small and insignificant matters, to undermine the faith of the young generation in Islam, and to undermine the belief of the young generation in principles of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic, and even the imam. They make the young generation lose interest in any necessary means which can be employed in this great struggle. Whenever you come across something that makes you lose faith, if you read an article or a translated romance to this effect, you must become suspicious, denounce it, and realize that it is not there by chance.

You should realize that America is afraid of you. You should know that your presence on the scene makes the greatest representatives of global arrogance feel insecure. They intend to remove you from their path. How can they do this? They cannot massacre all of you. If they could rout this nation with an atom bomb or through military action, they would have done so. But they cannot. They know that it would be against their interests. If they could wipe this nation from the face of the earth, they would have done so. But they cannot. They would not dare. The world tradition is not like that. If they were to take action in this regard, it would be against their interests. They understand this well. This nation, these young people, should therefore remain, but out of their way, away from the path of their aggression.

There are millions of young men in some of the so-called Islamic states who walk along the streets with their hands in their pockets and whistling as if they do not care much about the vital developments of the world. There are millions of young men busy with minor matters in their personal life today, not realizing what the enemy of mankind, their own enemy, and the enemy of the honor of nations is doing to these nations. There are such young men in the world, and the enemies say: Why should we not make these [Iranian] youths join the ranks of those young men? They are striving hard toward this objective and we must stand against them.

All the young people—especially the students, but the others as well—from all walks of life must engage in character building; build your character with the aid of religion. Educational affairs, educational teachers, and educational spokesmen are good. But unless one has the will to build a good character for oneself from within, no degree of education can help. You must build up your character. You must fight against the desires of the flesh. You nust believe that obeying God's tenets as far as your personal life is concerned is a great feat. [passage omitted]

That is what America is afraid of. It is not even afraid of political slogans—of course you must have political power, analytical power. Any youth or any nation lacking in political insight would be deceived, would be forced out of the political mainstream. They would be removed from the scene through utilization of the instruments of religion—like many individuals who pretend to have religion and to be pious. Because they lack political insight they would be easily removed and pushed aside. There are still some individuals who believe they are relgious and have faith and yet they do not agree with this revolution which is based on religion. Such individuals are to be found here and there.

Political insight is, therefore, necessary; but it is not all that is required. The main thing is divine faith which must be bred in your hearts.

Young people must engage in enjoining good and forbidding evil in their own environment. Why has this Islamic tenet not yet been fully implemented?

Enjoin others to do good. Do not tell me that they would turn their backs and tell you to mind your own business. Even if they do so you must not pay attention. Forbid evil. Some individuals believe that as soon as they see someone doing something which is forbidden they must clench their fists and threaten him. No sir. We have another weapon which is more effective than the fist. What is it ? The weapon of words.

No. The tongue is much more important than the hand. Stand up. Do not let the world of the young be infested by corruption—whether in schools or universities—these are targets for the enemy. You should know that the younger generation of this society of Islamic Iran is alive. The enemy should also know this. As long as young, devoted people are present, we have nothing to fear.

Now that the conference of treason has ended, they have said what they wanted to say, they have recognized the Zionists and the usurper government officially and in practice. What happened? What did the Palestinians get

out of it? What did the Arab world get out of it? The usurper and false Israeli Government was wishing for such an event after 40 years or so while, at the same time, it pretended that it was not interested and kept flirting and putting forward condition after condition. Then it went to the conference, said the most despicable and harsh things to the face of the Arabs, and left the conference.

Why did they lay down their weapons in the face of such a conspiracy, such a deceit? Why? What will history say about them? How will God call them to account on the day of judgement? What will their people do with them? Of course there is a way out. [audience chants]

Of course, the way is open to make up for this even if it cannot be fully compensated for. Governments, Arab governments can to some extent make up for this ugly deed they have committed by all declaring: We do not recognize Israel officially and whatever we said there was because Israel behaved in such a way; we negate what we said. They will make nations happy in this way. They can do this. But hope rests with nations; hope rests with the young. One should have no doubts that this evil tree which will perish from the face of the earth [preceding Koranic quotation in Arabic] will not have any base or pillar and will not survive. Without any shadow of doubt it will be destroyed. [audience chants] One should also have no doubt that justice will be victorious and Palestine will return to the Islamic fold. Whether this will happen sooner or later depends on the honor and efforts of the Muslims. Muslims should exert endeavors and young people should not abandon the issue. They should speak their mind just like the proud and courageous nation of Iran and obtain what they want. Without doubt, Almighty God will also grant them his blessing.

We ask God Almighty to grant guidance and blessings to you, dear young people. [passage omitted] [audience chants]

* Mehrpur on Supervising Upcoming Elections

92AS0168A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
6 Oct 91 pp 5, 11

[Text] Note: Concerning the interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution pertaining to approbatory supervision by the Council of Guardians over the elections, debate and controversy have arisen in connection with which some people have unjustly attacked the esteemed Council of Guardians. Dr. Mehrpur, a legal specialist and deputy secretary of the Council of Guardians, in defense of the sacred honor of this organization spawned by the revolution, has addressed a letter of grievances to the manager of the newspaper SALAM, and because of the importance of the matter the prominent points in the letter are printed below for you esteemed readers.

To His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin, your excellency Mr. Musavi Khu'iniha, may your life be long, concession holder and manager of the newspaper SALAM: Peace and good wishes. During the last few months there has been discussion, criticism, and abundant fault-finding against the Council of Guardians on the pretext of interpreting Article 99 of the Constitution and everyone has been able in every way, in word, deed, and in writing, to show disrespect for this organization spawned by the revolution. I recently read in the newspaper SALAM a report signed by someone as a correspondent for that honorable newspaper. Such a report showing a reporter's derision of such an important institution of the Constitution, without which, according to Article 93, the Majles, with all its importance, has no credibility, quite disturbed me, and despite all my determination and resolve not to get involved in disputes like this, I felt that perhaps it would be a sin to sit by silently, and as Sa'di [a renowned Persian poet] would say, it would represent the unsteadiness of mind.

Therefore, if I say things here, it is certainly not for the purpose of validating one faction or finding fault with another. In any case, however, as a member of the Council of Guardians, when I see anyone attacking this council, whether in speech or in writing, striking out at it and questioning its opinions and decisions, and when I see that the worst things are said about one of that Council's opinions and interpretations, to the point that a Majles deputy says the Council of Guardians has done the worst thing, I worry lest Article 91 of the Constitution might go the same way as Article Two of the Supplement to the previous Constitution. This is something that should worry you and people like you more than it worries me.

What is worrisome is that unjust and impractical analyses along with accusations and planting doubts concerning various opinions will generate rebellion and create misgivings among the people about this Council and its opinions, and I do not think this is the result intended by a great person such as yourself, or that you would regard indifference towards it as advisable, just as when the Majles reduced the budget for the Voice and Vision Organization in the Supplementary Budget Bill for the year 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991], and in its sharp criticism of this Majles decision that organization [Voice and Vision] gave a harsh and inappropriate analysis of the Majles in a radio program, even the deputies who did not vote for the budget reduction and did not consider it right rightfully took positions against this action by the organization, because the credibility and the prestige of the principle of the Majles had been weakened and insulted. Unfortunately, now also, on the pretext of debate and criticism of Article 99 of the Constitution, the principle of the Council of Guardians is also being weakened and insulted, and this is truly not in the interest of the government. You know even better than I that if His Holiness the Imam, may God be pleased with him, sometimes reproached members of the Council of Guardians or some of them, or offered them advice and guidance, and these days this matter is being reported regularly, he also said these things about the Council of Guardians:

"With the legal specialists and religious scholars of the Council of Guardians, we can have peace of mind because God willing nothing will happen in the Majles that is against the interest of Muslims. If a mistake is made in the Majles, the respected Council of Guardians, which has worked during this session with complete power and independence and has done the same thing also in the other sessions, will move this nation and this country forward."

On 2/25/1363 [15 May 1984], he said the following concerning the Council of Guardians:

"In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

If it is observed after the elections for the first and second terms of the Majles that those who found that the opinions of the respected Council of Guardians in voiding or validating the election in some precincts did not agree with their own views spread rumors, and that they weakened, or God forbid, even insulted the respected members of the Council of Guardians, may Almighty God help them, who are the protectors of the interests of Islam and the Muslims, and that they distributed circulars and statements in the press and among groups, heedless of what consequences will follow such actions and incitements of public opinion, especially during the second term when only a few years of revolution have passed, it is hoped that such actions are done without awareness of the undesirable and unfortunate consequences.

At the beginning of the Constitutional Revolution in the first term the same treatment was given to the jurisprudents supervising the laws. At that time they gradually drove the jurisprudents out of the Majles, and we saw what they brought down on this nation.

I warn these gentlemen that weakening and insulting the theologians of the Council of Guardians is dangerous for the nation and Islam. Deviations are always brought into a regime gradually, and they finally bring the regime down. It is necessary that we all give emphatic attention to the interests of Islam and the Muslims and that we respect the laws, however much they contradict our personal views and tastes, and that we be loyal to this newly-established regime, which is being attacked by the powers and the superpowers.

In conclusion I must say that I appointed respected theologians on the Council of Guardians with understanding and awareness, and I consider it necessary to respect them and preserve their position. I hope that things of this nature will not be repeated. I remind the Council of Guardians to be firm in your work, act with care and decisiveness, and rely on Almighty God. I ask Almighty God for grace and mercy for the dear nation. Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni"

Therefore I think it incorrect to attack so much the members of the Council of Guardians as a form of criticism of its views, and to present unreal analyses which gradually make it subject to question. It is unfortunate that an influential newspaper that considers itself the bearer of peace from Merciful God, "Peace is a word from a merciful God", and is managed by a revolutionary scholar such as yourself should be playing the largest role in this matter, to the point that its reporter should deal with the Council of Guardians in that derisive tone as the result of an encounter with an ordinary staff member at the Council of Guardians and after having become angry with him during a telephone conversation.

In short, the point is that when Article 99 of the Constitution says that supervision of the elections for the Majles and the President of the republic, referenda, and elections for the Assembly of Experts is the reponsibility of the Council of Guardians, this supervision is general, comprehensive and complete, meaning of all phases of the elections, from the beginning when the registration of candidates starts to the conclusion when the votes are counted and the results are announced, and it must supervise all these areas so that the elections will not violate the provisions of the law. If it sees a violation, it issues a memo to correct it, or it can even stop or nullify the elections to prevent violations of the law. In this way it fully enacts its supervision. It was never intended that the Council of Guardians would be a mere observer, restricting itself only to issuing reminders, or reporting violations to higher authorities. The nature of supervision requires more than that. This has been the principle derived both by the Council of Guardians and the Majles since the beginning, and therefore the laws on how the elections are to be held and supervised by the Council of Guardians have been grounded firmly on this very meaning since 1359 [21 March 1980 - 20 March 1981].

The law on supervision by the Council of Guardians of the Majles elections approved by the Majles Internal Affairs Committee in the month of Mehr 1359 [23 September - 22 October 1980] begins with these words:

"In implementing Article 99 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has given the responsibility of supervising the Majles elections to the Council of Guardians, the following legal provisions, as approved by the Majles and with the right to make laws on this matter assigned to the Majles Internal Affairs Committee, were approved unanimously by those present on 2 Mehr 1359 or 12 Du al-Qa'dah 1400 [24 September 1990]."

Article Three of that law provides: "The central committee will supervise all stages of the elections, election processes, measures taken by the Ministry of the Interior which influence the elections, the executive committees, determination of the competence of candidates, and whatever pertains to the correctness of the elections."

Article 12 says: After the order to begin the elections is issued by the Ministry of the Interior, if the Council of Guardians observes violations in the manner of carrying

out the election preliminaries, such as in the appointment of the executive committee, the supervising commission, determining the competence of the candidates, the manner of campaigning and the like where it appears necessary to stop the elections, it will announce the incidents to the Ministry of the Interior in implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution."

Article 14 states: "The opinion of the Council of Guardians about nullifying or stopping the elections is final and must be implemented."

This was a test law which was extended once and then in 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987] received final approval from the Majles with a few changes. However, the essence of the matter, which includes general, comprehensive and inclusive supervision over all stages of the elections by the Council of Guardians, whose opinion is final and must be implemented, and which therefore guarantees implementation of decisions to nullify or stop the elections, is also evident in subsequent legislations.

Article 3 of the above law provides: "The central committee will supervise all election stages and processes, measures taken by the Ministry of the Interior concerning the elections, the executive committees, the determination of competence of those registered as candidates, and the proper operation of the elections."

Article 5 discusses the prerogatives of the province supervisory committees. It says: "The province supervisory committees are required to inform the aforementioned [central] committee about all that province's election affairs, and the views of this committee are final in all matters pertaining to the elections except the following:

1 - Nullifying or stopping all the elections in an electoral precinct.

2 - Nullifying or stopping secondary elections which have a definitive effect on the fate of the main elections.

3 - Rejecting the competence of those wishing to be candidates for the Majles, which must be approved by the central supervisory committee.

Since in these three matters the view of the province central supervisory committee is not final, it is because of this that the view of the central supervisory committee or the Council of Guardians itself must be followed, and in any case there is no doubt that the decision of the Council of Guardians is final and definitive in the exercise of supervision. Article 11 also repeats the same provisions of Article 14 in the previous law, stating that the view of the Council of Guardians concerning nullifying or stopping the elections is final and must be implemented.

The Majles Election Law, enacted in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984], also states clearly the same general and comprehensive supervision by the Council of Guardians, and the fact that its views are definitive. For example Article Three of this law states:

"Supervision of the Majles elections is the responsibility of the Council of Guardians. This supervision is general and is exercised in all stages of all affairs pertaining to the elections."

Article 54 provides: "If the executive committee does not observe the election laws and regulations in studying the competence of candidates and in fulfilling its other responsibilities, the governor or lieutenant-governor must replace each of the trustees on the executive committee, or replace the entire executive committee, with the knowledge and approval of the Council of Guardians' supervisory committee and with the knowledge of the Ministry of the Interior."

Article 70 also says: "The issuance of credentials for those elected requires confirmation of the soundness of the elections by the Council of Guardians."

Truly, with all these legal provisions enacted by the Majles, and with supervision by the Council of Guardians over the elections having been clearly expressed in Article 99 of the Constitution in this general, comprehensive and definitive way, one may say: Is the Council of Guardians merely a simple observer of the elections? If someone considers this supervision, in view of the interpretations always held of it by the Majles and the Council of Guardians, to be approbatory supervision, has he committed an unforgivable sin, and does he deserve all this unkind treatment?

I believe that you will not disagree with the idea that with this quality that has been ascribed in the laws to the supervision by the Council of Guardians over the elections, one of the elements of supervision is determining the competence of the candidates, and in this regard, there is no difference between the rejection and approval of candidates in the work of the executive committee.

In every case, if the laws and regulations are not observed, naturally the Council of Guardians, in the same codified quality, may exercise its supervision.

For example, if the supervisory committee does not observe the provisions of Paragraph Seven Article 30 of the Election Law concerning minimum and maximum ages and announces as valid the candidacy of a 22-year-old, or if it validates the candidacy of someone who has been convicted of acting against the Islamic Republic of Iran, or that of a large landowner who has registered unutilized lands in his own name, or that of someone who by court order has been declared subject to the Article 49 of the Constitution and has been prohibited from being elected under paragraphs four, two, and nine of the Election Law, does the Council of Guardians not have the right to exercise supervision? It is unlikely that anyone knowledgeable would give a negative answer.

The fact that Note One Article 53 states that someone whose competence has not been validated by the executive committee may complain to the province supervisory committee within four days is only to give rights to the candidates. Its meaning was never that when someone's competence is validated and the Council of Guardians finds it in violation of the law, it cannot prevent a violation of the law as supervisor in the sense recognized by law. There are two different issues here.

Supervision by the Council of Guardians has its place both on the positive and the negative sides, and wherever it learns of illegal activity, it is within the prerogatives given to it under the law for it to stop it, and ultimately it may even exercise the option of nullifying the elections, but the right has also been given to those candidates whose competence has been rejected to complain to the province supervisory committee within four days, and ask that their competence be reexamined.

In any case, what the Council of Guardians has done in practice since the beginning has been based on this same interpretation and inference, and it has acted in this same way. An example is the letter and view from the Council of Guardians addressed to the Ministry of the Interior on 4/28/1360 [19 July 1981] dealing with the mid-term elections during the first Majles term. There the Council of Guardians protested the competence of prominent Tudeh Party members, and asked that their names be removed from the list of candidates because they lacked competence and the declaration of their competence was illegal. The Ministry of the Interior did delete their names. The letter reads as follows:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Ministry of the Interior:

Concerning the competence of the Majles candidates, since there are among them people such as Mr. Ehsan Tabari and Mr. Nur ol-Din Kiyanuri, who are known for having Marxist and anti-Islamic ideas, it is necessary to note that this matter was raised at an official meeting of the Council of Guardians, and the following opinion was announced:

With regard to what is written in the Constitution, especially Article 67 concerning swearing by Almighty God and preserving the sanctuary of Islam and the idea of Article 64, only those people are competent to serve on the Majles who are either Muslim and committed to the principles of Islam or are members of the minorities mentioned in Article 64. Therefore, you must order that the names of such people be deleted from the list of candidates and this must be announced to the public.

Secretary of the Council of Guardians

You will note that the Council of Guardians has held and acted upon this inference and interpretation since the beginning, and just as has been explained, the interpretation of the Majles, in view of the kinds of prerogatives given in the enacted laws to the Council of Guardians in the exercise of supervision, has been no different.

Of course, in terms of practice and rights, the matter could still be discussed and analyzed with differing views given, and if this dimension were studied it would be most interesting and useful, but to draw the debate into aimless discussion and to allow the showing of disrespect for an organization which is viewed as one of the pillars of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to diminish it in the eyes of others to the point that a reporter insults this organization because he was annoyed with a council staff member is not right, and it does not befit the position of a great leader such as yourself, from whom more is expected in guarding Islamic values and organizations.

Apparently the main and principal problems and concerns about the way the Council of Guardians is operating are in connection with Paragraph Three of Article 29 of the Election Law, and it appears that with this interpretation, the Council of Guardians will reject the competence of people whom it does not wish to get into the Majles because they have no practical commitment to Islam. The concern is that even if their competence were confirmed by the executive committee, in the exercise of supervision their competence would be rejected and they would be prevented from taking part in the elections. In this regard, what escapes my humble mind, since I can make nothing out of the complicated arguments of the various lines and factions, is first of all, if we assume that someone who has no practical commitment to Islam would really become a candidate and that the executive committee would knowingly or unknowingly confirm his competence, and the Council of Guardians realized it, and the situation is such that the candidate's lack of practical commitment to Islam is completely clear and there is no room for doubt, why could the Council of Guardians not exercise supervision in this case? What is the difference between this instance and the one where it becomes clear that a candidate does not meet the age requirement, or cannot read or write? I do not think there should be any argument in this situation either.

Second, let us assume that the Council of Guardians might reject the competence of individuals without reason, unrealistically, or based on personal and factional interest, in view of the various interpretations possible for practical commitment to Islam. If such a thing really happened, a renewed look would have to be taken at the individual members of the Council of Guardians who acted with such impiety. If it became clear that a majority of the members of the Council of Guardians were willing to be so unjust and impious, they would no longer be trustworthy and steps would have to be taken, and instead of talking about the prerogatives of the Council of Guardians and limiting its continued supervision, thought must be given to replacing these untrustworthy and dishonest people with honest and trustworthy people. Although I am not given to extremism and do not give absolute approval to anyone,

and I believe that the members of the Council of Guardians, like many other individuals and officials, may err, slip, and sometimes be diverted by personal taste, I cannot accept the attribution to them of this pessimism and clear criminality.

And really, throughout the elections for the second and third terms of the Majles, how many people were there whom the Council of Guardians rejected them for the lack of practical commitment to Islam?

Nepal & Bhutan

King Cancels SAARC Trip Due to 'Subversion'

BK0611145691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1431 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 6 (AFP)—The king of Bhutan decided not to go to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting due to the threat of "subversion" in his Kingdom, the government said announcing the trip's cancellation.

The latest issue of the country's only newspaper, the weekly KUENSEL published by the Ministry of Information, announced on its front page that it was not possible for the king to go to Colombo "because of threats by terrorists to carry out acts of sabotage and subversion in Bhutan during the summit period." The terrorists to which the paper referred [are] Nepalese militants who are demanding a change to a constitutional monarchy.

In the absence of the king, the SAARC members decided to postpone indefinitely their annual meeting, which was to take place from Thursday to Saturday.

Inside pages of the November 2 issue of KUENSEL, which arrived here this week, contain detailed reports of the 70th national assembly.

During the course of heated debate, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk said he would abdicate if deputies did not approve his policy of conciliation towards the Nepalese minority.

Many members were in favor of a tough stance against the Nepalese.

The anti-government campaign by inhabitants of Nepalese origin commenced in 1988 when the Drupkas, a northern ethnic group similar to Tibetans, undertook to expel illegal Nepalese residents from the country.

At the same time the government decided to "Bhutanise" the whole of the population, demanding that Nepalese citizens wear national costume and learn Dzongkha.

Since then, the government accuses Nepalese opponents of carrying out numerous murders leaving at least 33 dead and dozens of kidnappings, as well as of destroying private and public property causing the majority of hospitals and schools in the south to be closed.

According to officials at Thimpu, the capital of this small Kingdom between China and India, the Nepalese population of Hindu religion make up 35 percent of the country's 600,000 inhabitants.

According to independent sources, this percentage could be as high as 50 percent.

During the assembly, Foreign Minister Lyonpo Dawa Tsering said the objective of the militants—who claim to represent 52 percent to 60 percent of the population—was, under the pretext of democracy, to form a government and take control of the country.

He said that the people of the political parties from the neighboring Kingdom of Nepal supported the rebels in the hope of forming "greater Nepal" which would run along the Himalayan region taking in the Indian state of Sikkim and other parts of northeastern India.

The Bhutanese, moreover, have made a big deal out of declarations by Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala during a recent interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. of his support for Bhutanese who have asked for political asylum in Nepal.

Koirala said he had himself participated at the organisation of the Bhutan State Congress which in 1952 tried to organise demonstrations against the Bhutanese king.

During a recent interview with AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] in Kathmandu, two of these political refugees, Bhim Subba and R.B. Basnet, said the Government of Bhutan "wanted a confrontation. All is intended to make life miserable for the Nepalese so that they leave on their own."

They said the Nepalese were in favor of a constitutional monarchy and the end of discrimination against religious or ethnic minorities.

The government of Thimpu denies such discrimination.

Prime Minister Cancels Visit

BK0611141691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 6 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala cancelled Wednesday his visit to Sri Lanka for a summit of South Asian leaders following the collapse of the meeting, official sources said here.

The sixth summit of leaders from the seven members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was postponed after the king of Bhutan withdrew from the meeting, previously scheduled to begin in Colombo Thursday.

In a letter to the Nepalese leader, SAARC chairman Maldives President Maumoom Abdul Gayoom said the meeting could not go ahead without the Bhutanese king.

An official here said "a fresh date for the sixth SAARC summit will be made in the near future after further consultations among the heads of states or government of the region."

Political observers here said the future of SAARC—composed of Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka—was bleak and there was every likelihood of its collapse following the failure to get the summit off the ground.

Pakistan

'Rumors' Predict Prime Minister's Ouster

BK0811051491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] In Pakistan, eight opposition parties, including the components of the People's Democratic Alliance and the Jamiyat-i-Islami, have urged President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to remove Mr. Nawaz Sharif as the country's prime minister to facilitate investigation against him for his alleged involvement in the cooperative financial institutions issue. Addressing a press conference in Lahore yesterday, the veteran leader, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said that the group in its telegram has also sought an early meeting with the president on this matter.

Our Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that the Pakistani capital has been rife with strong rumors for the past few days of an imminent change in the government setup. Mr. Nawaz Sharif is presently away in Colombo on an official visit.

Prime Minister Addresses Nation on Accomplishments

BK0711081191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1435 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Address to the nation by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen! Peace be upon you. With your cooperation and by the grace of God, your elected government has completed one year of its tenure. When I look back at the passing year, my head bows down in gratitude to Almighty God that we have removed, to a great extent, the black clouds that were hovering on the horizon of the country's future. Today we are marching toward our goal with much more confidence and trust.

In keeping with the democratic tradition, each government spends its first year in office only on setting priorities and planning. During this time it is given the opportunity to function. The opposition also does not try to vitiate the atmosphere by acting in opposition prematurely. Keeping this democratic tradition in mind, I said during my address to the nation on 7 November of last year that whether you had voted for me or not, whether you were behind the success of my colleagues or not, and whether you supported this party or that one, to me you were all a part of the democratic process. The role each one of you played is recognized because democracy is not complete without the process of endorsement and opposition. Both the ruling party and the opposition are part of the democratic system. I want to lay the foundations of a new political climate and end the frigid tradition of conflict, confrontation, and tension.

My dear countrymen! Today we have solved those basic problems which were like time bombs placed against the foundation of the progress and sovereignty of Pakistan. These problems included the distribution of water, royalties on electricity and Sui gas, and the allocation of funds to the provinces. We have solved these problems through consensus and in a democratic way, and we have created unity in place of confusion or confidence in place of conflict in our dear motherland.

For those who love Pakistan, it is also satisfying that for the first time practical steps have been taken to enforce the Islamic system in their country. After the enforcement of the shari'ah bill, we are now taking further steps to mold the society along Islamic lines with the cooperation of religious scholars and theologicians. I am, myself, considering various proposals in this regard in consultations with religious scholars.

The National Assembly has passed the public fund bill. The government is setting it up with an initial capital of 2 billion rupees to provide financial assistance to widows, orphans, and the disabled, money which they will not have to beg from anyone.

Your government, God willing, will spare no efforts to make Pakistan an exemplary welfare state in light of the holy Koran and the teachings of the prophet.

My dear countrymen, a crisis was created in the recent past due to the irregularities in the cooperative finance corporations. Some people tried to manipulate it to settle their political scores. I have been considering steps from the very first day to recover the funds of at least the elderly, widows, orphans, and retirees. Nearly 81,000 account holders have been paid back. The total number of those affected by the major finance corporations is 637,000. Implementation of the steps I am going to announce today will enable the return of money to individuals who deposited up to 100,000 rupees.

As you know, these institutions began illegal banking during Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's regime. But when the State Bank proposed restrictions on them, the Benazir Bhutto government refused to take action and gave them protection. Taking advantage of this patronage, the shareholders of these institutions openly looted the people's investments and used them at will. By the time we came to power, these institutions had become nearly bankrupt, and when they were unable to return deposits to their account holders, people lost confidence in them, which

created a crisis. But the government took immediate steps and took over whatever accounts and assets were left, thus preventing the people's money from completely disappearing. In spite of this, these people were able to misappropriate a lot of money.

The situation now is that if an attempt is made to immediately settle the accounts, half of the funds will be lost and the people's additional investments will be wasted. Out of 607,000 depositors, 600,000 have investments of 100,000 rupees or less.

We have decided to form an investment company at the provincial level to protect to the assets. This company, after taking into custody all assets of finance corporations, will set up additional institutions of each unit. After assessing the claims of all depositors, it will issue share certificates to them. This company will be registered with the stock exchange and its shares will be sold on the stock exchange and guaranteed by the provincial government. Upon the completion of the assessment of claims and transfer of shares, profits will be paid out at the rate of 10 percent from 15 February 1992 next year. This profit will be exempted from all taxes. Further details on this matter will be made public within 10 days.

As per my promise, I have taken steps to protect the funds of all poor account holders. If they so wish, they can realize their amounts by selling their shares on the market, or they may keep them and earn profits which will serve as a source of income for widows, retirees, and orphans. Had we wished, we could have assumed an air of silence immediately after solving the problems of those affected by the cooperative corporations. But, I do not do anything under political pressure or to take any political advantage by deceiving the people. I discharge my duties in a spirit of service to the people and with the fear of God in mind. Therefore, I have not forgotten the people, especially the poor, affected by other finance companies whose funds were looted during Benazir Bhutto's regime.

Bhutto's government provided protection to those who swindled the money of the poor. It did not do anything for the affected people who are still seeking redress for their grievances. My poor sisters and brothers should rest assured that they are now not dealing with any slogan-shouting leader. I have decided to set up a commission to look into their problems. The commission will recommend measures for the repayment of their lost amounts. We have made arrangements to repay the lost funds of the poor, but we will not let go scot-free those who deceived the needy and pillaged their legitimate earnings. Under the cover of their deceptive actions, their political masters leveled allegations against my colleagues and even against me. When for 20 months my worst political adversaries were controlling the entire administrative machinery of the country, they kept almost all departments—customs, the Water and Power Development Authority, income tax, railway, banks, the Central Board of Revenue, the Federal Investigation Agency, Sui Gas—engaged in probing affairs concerning my family members and me, but they could not find any misappropriation of even a single cent. Instead, after every investigation report was out, their government had no choice but to issue a certificate confirming our honest dealings. In the course of their blind pursuit of a political vendetta, they maligned Pakistan's image all over the world instead of safeguarding it. They forced the closure of factories by holding a ship called the Jonathan, for a record period of time, thereby causing the loss of millions of rupees to the national exchequer. Such expensive political revenge at the cost of the poor would perhaps not have been taken anywhere in the world. But, the people know that they could not prove any embezzlement of any cent at that time, and therefore they had to eat humble pie.

Being a Muslim, it is my belief that every person, whether an ordinary citizen or the prime minister, should be accountable to the nation. I have never panicked in the face of accountability and that is why, perhaps, that Almighty God has given me this position.

Now that I am myself in charge of the government's responsibilities, I have set up a high-powered judicial commission headed by a judge of the Supreme Court to probe matters relating to the financial crisis of cooperatives and charges leveled against the government. Its two other members will be the judges of the high courts. This commission has been constituted in consultations with the chief justices of the Supreme Court and the high courts. This high-powered judicial commission will submit its report within 15 days of the reference filed with it by the government. The government has asked the commission to identify those responsible for the financial irregularities and to suggest punishments to be given to them.

If even a single allegation leveled against me is proved in the judicial commission I will bow my head before the law. But if these allegations are proved false, I will leave the verdict to the court of Almighty God and the court of the people. God is the final judge above, and here the people of Pakistan will carry out the accountability.

My brothers and sisters! This is the first time in the nation's history that a government has submitted itself to accountability before a court, and as prime minister I have myself decided to submit to accountability. This is one of the glorious traditions of the lofty Islamic traditions, and I have been privileged to practice it.

My dear countrymen! Political stability is imperative for economic stability, and political stability cannot be achieved until the parties out of power practice responsible politics. We had to work in a very difficult situation. Despite all this, a vast number of development projects have been started in the country. These include the Indus Highway construction project, which is of extraordinary significance for our industrial and agricultural development. A grand scheme of 66 billion rupees has been prepared to build high-quality roads in Pakistan. Work is already in progress on new power projects.

We took a pledge at the time of assuming our responsibilities that we will pay attention to welfare programs by cutting wasteful spending from the national exchequer. That is why during the past year we allocated 10 billion rupees more than the previous year for social sectors such as education and health. The national finance commission gave 24 billion rupees to the provinces for welfare projects.

The privatization policy is being implemented at a rapid pace. Had we continued the policy of funding from your taxes the billions of rupees deficit incurred by the public sector industries, we could not have alloted so many funds for construction and development. Your government recognizes in principle the greatness of labor. While transferring the public sector industries to the private sector, we have decided to allot 10 percent of their shares indiscriminately to laborers and to make them the owners. The workers will become the owners of those industries which they buy. Allegations were leveled against us that we would allot these industries to people of our choice. I have definitely extended the benefits to the people of my choice. The people of my choice are the hardworking laborers and farmers, and they deserve every kind of benefit. Besides, we were particular that no laborer will be made redundant during the course of privatization. For this, proper agreements have been reached. Our experiment has proved such a total success that several Third World countries are approaching us for a study on it.

My dear countrymen, despite all the difficulties created by the opposition, and thanks to our fair and liberal welfare policies, there has been an increase in our foreign exchange revenue. Here it should be remembered that this is a period of global recession and that the effects of the Gulf crisis still exist. As a result of lifting foreign exchange restrictions, $670 million in foreign exchange was accumulated. This reflects confidence in Pakistan's strong economy, and it has happened for the first time in the history of Pakistan.

Agriculture is considered to be the backbone of Pakistan. The foundation of our economy rests on agriculture. As long as our responsible farmers are not given a leading role in the process of economic development, all development plans will prove futile. In this connection, technical agreements are being concluded with various countries for providing them with sophisticated equipment and seeds. The foremost problem facing our farmers is irrigation. Now that the agreement for water sharing has been concluded, projects to build new irrigation projects will be completed. Work on the construction of new canals will be carried out extensively and expeditiously. This will not only overcome the problem of a scarcity of water in (?dry) lands but also will bring millions of acres of land under cultivation on which unemployed farmers will be settled. I am aware that these days my peasant breathren are not getting the proper price for rice and cotton. This is actually due to the steep fall in the prices of cotton and yarn on the global market, thereby resulting in the fall in the price of cotton in our country. To improve the price of cotton, the government has decided to eliminate 10 percent of the export duty on cotton effective immediately. The Cotton Export Corporation has been directed to expedite the process of procuring cotton to improve its price.

As for the procurement of rice, the government has ordered the Pakistan Banking Council to ensure the disbursement of loans immediately for the purchase of rice and paddies. This is to stabilize the price of Basmati rice and paddies and to arrange for their procurement. The rice export corporation has also been directed to make immediate purchases from farmers. I am confident that this will reduce the hardships of my peasant brethren to a great extent.

Dear countrymen, you might have noticed that despite the shattered economy which we inherited and the political attitude of some quarters, we have set a standard of performance of which any government can be proud. I know that the difficulties of the poor people have not been lessened as had been hoped. But it should also be noted that no crop becomes harvestable within a day. We have laid the foundations. Employment opportunities have already been created in your farms and factories. And, God willing, the unemployment rate will substantially decrease during next year. We have created stability in the public sector as well. We have now become capable of providing new government jobs. Therefore, restrictions on government jobs are to be withdrawn effective 1 January 1992.

Incidents of curfew, kidnapping, and robberies were common features of the law and order situation when we assumed office. But, the situation has now changed within a year's time. Incidents of kidnapping for ransom are rare. The practice of the public display of weapons has ceased. The special courts established as a result of the 12th Amendment to the Constitution have started providing speedy justice. The criminal elements have been discouraged by the pace with which justice is being meted out to convicts. And I believe that the situation will be far better within a few months and that the people will be able to live in peace, security, and tranquillity. You have observed that these courts are pursuing the principles of law and justice, thereby proving as unfounded the opposition's allegation that they would be used for political vendettas—as was the case with their other allegations.

My sisters, brothers, and elders. It is very easy to claim to be democratic. But it is not easy to pursue democratic practices. You might have noticed that the former government during its 20-month tenure in office paid no attention in the legislative assemblies to the task for which it was elected. But we have been very fast in the legislative business in the assemblies. Apart from the 12th Amendment to the Constitution, the enactments we made in the assembly in a year's time are unprecedented in recent history. Similarly, the provincial governments were taken into confidence when making major national decisions. And by the grace of God, we resolved the

long-standing and complicated problems of the country through the democratic practice of consensus.

My dear countrymen, when I reviewed foreign affairs after being elected prime minister, I observed that the claims of success and (?expertise) were unfounded. Instead of rigidity, I molded the foreign policy in accordance with national needs and gave importance to the country's interests rather than to personal publicity. I put an end to slogans and glamor and started moving forward with calmness, seriousness, and a sense of responsibility in accordance with the country's interests.

You might remember the situation in Afghanistan a year ago. Attempts were made to demoralize the mojahedin by citing the Jalalabad incident. Throughout the world the number of those supporting recognition of the Najibollah government was increasing and Pakistan was being ignored at the global level. But the situation today has changed. The mojahedin have high morale. Today no one in the world expects the Najibollah regime to retain its hold in Afghanistan. The Soviet union has started acknowledging Pakistan's importance in settling the Afghan issue, and preparations are being made today to welcome the mojahedin who were earlier termed fundamentalists and were even considered inappropriate to talk with.

No voice was raised earlier against Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. The Kashmiri Muslims were shedding their blood in their war of independence. But the Government of Pakistan was proposing to (?expand) the fraternity of democratic countries. In this respect, Pakistan certainly maintained the leadership in this region. [sentence as heard] But we raised voices in the world against the oppression of the Kashmiri people. We narrated anew the background of this problem and launched an organized campaign to arouse world opinion on violations of human rights there. And by the grace of God, we achieved considerable success in this regard.

The sincerity and love expressed by King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to the Pakistani people during the recent visit to Saudi Arabia by the Pakistani president and me, and the hospitality accorded to us represent one of the best returns of our principled policy during the Gulf crisis.

With Iran, too, we are expanding close relations of cooperation. After Afghanistan's independence, God willing, a new Islamic force will emerge spreading from West Asia to the Gulf which will have the capability to play a magnificent role at the global level. And, God willing, Pakistan's role in this will conform to the expectations of the Islamic world.

My dear countrymen, as I have repeatedly said, we have to fulfill our responsibility of reconstructing the country. We have passed through a prolonged period of destruction. Our agriculture is outdated, our factories are obsolete and antiquated, and our resources continue to be wasted. Our laborers and farmers lack the opportunity to work and are afflicted with hunger, illness, and poverty. Each and every one of us is burdened with [foreign] debts. I kept myself busy working coolly to resolve all these problems, and I created an atmosphere for investment, formulated plans to improve the roads and communication system, made concrete decisions to solve water and power shortages, and formulated self-reliance-based policies to make the nation independent in respect to the economy and defense. The spirit, sincerity, and dedication with which I am working are not due to any expectation of any gain [word indistinct] or personal publicity. I always considered Pakistan as a trust of our ancestors which they achieved through prolonged struggle and sacrifice. The responsibility for its protection and reconstruction and development is in my ancestry. Everything I have is dedicated to this country. My life and death are dedicated to this motherland, and I expect every citizen of this country to sincerely play his role in the reconstruction and development of the motherland.

Political differences play a very effective role in grooming a healthy society. But when these differences start overwhelming society and polluting it, then we should sit down and try to find out if we failed to fulfill our responsibility.

I started my first year with good and sincere hopes. I am beginning the second year with the pledge to eradicate unhealthy traditions of confrontation, bitterness, and tension from the country's politics. You will agree with the fact that we inherited a political atmosphere infested with hatred, bigotry, corruption, and confrontation. We never tried to maintain that atmosphere, and that will remain my policy in the future as well. I wish my political rivals would view the interests of the country and the nation above political considerations so that people can lead a life of rest and tranquillity. Our people are poor and dejected. They have no role in polluting the political atmosphere. They cannot be punished. They have yearned for prosperity for centuries. If our politics are for them, then we should give top priority to their happiness. May God bestow on us the capability to work for the reconstruction, development, and prosperity of this great motherland.

Long live Pakistan.

Prime Minister Departs for Colombo 7 Nov

BK0711030091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif left Islamabad this morning for Colombo on a three-day official visit to Sri Lanka where he will exchange views with Sri Lankan leaders on matters of mutual interest, regional situation, and international issues.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoy very cordial relations, and they have been cooperating with each other in several fields. The prime minister's visit will further strengthen bilateral ties. Sri Lanka has been supporting Pakistan's

efforts for making the Indian Ocean a nuclear-free zone and also supports Islamabad's principled stand that all countries of the region should strictly observe international principles in matters concerning their mutual relationship.

NPP Criticizes Government, Alliance 'Cracks'

BK0711162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] In Pakistan, the National People's Party—NPP—leader, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has openly criticized the Nawaz Sharif government, lending credibility for reports that cracks in the ruling eight-party alliance had developed. Some of the prime minister's Islami Jamhoori Ittehad senators have also demanded Mr. Nawaz Sharif's resignation. One of them, Mr. Tariq Chaudhary, has warned the country's president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, that if he does not file a reference against the prime minister before the newly appointed judicial commission, he will do it on his own.

U.S. Officials' Visits Reflect 'Close' Ties

BK0711031491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Two high-level U.S. delegations will visit Pakistan this month to discuss various issues, including the progress toward nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen yesterday that the U.S. assistant secretary of state will arrive in Islamabad on 19 November on a three-day visit. He is expected to hold detailed discussions at the Foreign Office on bilateral issues, including nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia.

The spokesman said that the visit will provide both sides with a good opportunity to carry forward the negotiations that began with the visit of Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad to the United States. He added that the visit reflects the desire of the two sides to understand each other's stand in a better way.

The U.S. Central Command's commander in chief will pay a three-day visit to Pakistan from 18 November at the invitation of General Asif Nawaz, Army chief of staff. The spokesman said that the visit reflects the desire of the two countries to maintain their ongoing close and cordial relationship in the field of defense.

Government, Bangladesh Sign Economic Minutes

BK0611161991 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Bangladesh and Pakistan have decided to set up committees at each other's capitals to review the implementation of the decision of the Joint Economic Commission [JEC]. The three-day meeting of the JEC ended in Islamabad today with the signing of the agreed minutes. Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar, who led the Bangladesh delegation to the JEC meeting, and Pakistani Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Sartaj Aziz signed the agreed minutes.

The two sides expressed the hope that the agreed minutes would prove to be a turning point in economic relations between the two countries. They showed a desire to consolidate and expand bilateral economic relations and decided to intensify their efforts in this regard.

A sales promotion team on tea from Dhaka will visit Pakistan. It will work out arrangements for the export of tea to Pakistan. The commission also decided to constitute a joint experts group consisting of representatives of the private and public sectors to identify areas of cooperation in the field of textile industry.

Iranian Envoy Meets President, Delivers Message

BK0711120691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The Iranian president's special envoy, the deputy foreign minister, Mr. Manuchehr Motaki, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. He delivered to the president a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani relating to the next Islamic summit. The special envoy hoped that during the meeting to be held in Senegal next May Iran and Pakistan would cooperate on various issues in consonance with their close and fraternal relations. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan assured the special envoy that Pakistan would cooperate with Iran at international fora, particularly in the forthcoming Islamic summit.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Blames Premadasa for SAARC 'Debacle'

BK0811082491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Colombo, Nov 8 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition Friday slammed President Ranasinghe Premadasa for the collapse of a South Asian summit and demanded a parliamentary debate on Colombo's diplomatic debacle.

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said the sixth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) failed to take place because of Premadasa's "antagonistic attitude" towards neighbouring India.

The SAARC summit was suddenly called off because India insisted on the presence of the king of Bhutan who had withdrawn at the last minute citing subversion in the southern part of his Himalayan kingdom.

Despite the summit's cancellation, Bangladesh Premier Khaleda Zia, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom arrived here Thursday for brief talks with Premadasa.

The visiting leaders, from the three Muslim countries in the organisation grouping Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, were holding talks with each other, officials said.

Bandaranaike said the summit could have taken place if Colombo had good relations with India and maintained a policy of solving problems through consultation rather than confrontation.

"We do not share the view that India sabotaged the summit. If one were to accept it as correct, then there should be attempts to remedy the situation and improve Indo-Sri Lanka relations," Bandaranaike told reporters here.

She added "Premadasa is responsible not only for the collapse of the summit but for the collapse of Indo-Lanka relations. This is a good time to stop and take stock."

However opposition firebrand Vasudeva Nanayakkara said New Delhi had been "justifiably intransigent" in insisting on the King Jigme Singye Wangchuck's presence to stage the seven-nation summit.

A joint opposition statement said they boycotted Premadasa's public reception Thursday for three visiting leaders from Muslim countries to protest against his "irresponsible attitude" leading to the collapse of the summit.

"The inability to host the sixth SAARC summit is without doubt the most serious diplomatic failure of the Premadasa government. It is also the most serious set back for Sri Lanka in the international sphere," the statement said.

The opposition statement said Premadasa broke the accepted rule that bilateral issues would not be taken up at SAARC by boycotting the 1989 Council of Ministers meeting in Islamabad over India's military presence here.

"We believe that the Premadasa administration does not have the vision to create a foreign policy that will bring mutual regional trust and credibility," the statement said.

Bandaranaike said they would be asking for a one-day debate in parliament to discuss the cancellation of the summit.

The opposition also criticised Premadasa for not attending last year's summit in the Maldives capital and refusing to stage the summit here in 1989 arguing that he could not do so while Indian troops were on the island.

New Delhi sent troops to Sri Lanka in line with a bilateral pact in July 1987 to end Tamil separatism in the island republic and completed their withdrawal after 32 months in March 1990.

Dissidents Accuse Government of Framing Charges

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[Text] In Sri Lanka, dissident leaders in the ruling United National Party—UNP—today accused the government of trying to frame charges against the dissident MP [member of Parliament] Mr. Lakshan Seneviratne. Addressing a press conference, the dissident leader, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, said that this is being done because Mr. Seneviratne was among those UNP members of Parliament who had publicly announced that he had signed the resolution for the impeachment of President Premadasa.

The dissidents in the UNP have launched a movement for the removal of President Premadasa, accusing of abuse of power, and are campaigning for the restoration of parliamentary form of government.